MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

25 JANUARY 1983

Iraq

Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi will be relieved of his post and appointed minister of state at the presidential office while Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz will be appointed foreign minister, Baghdad radio reported citing a 24 January Revolution Command Council decree. Radio Monte Carlo attributed the Cabinet change to Hammadi's health.

Meanwhile, an official Iraqi spokesman condemned the Iranian-Libyan-Syrian statement issued in Damascus which demanded an end to all types of aid to Iraq and called for the overthrow of President Husayn, according to INA. The spokesman declared that the Damascus and Tripoli regimes have violated the basic rules of Arab solidarity, the Arab joint defense pact, and the principles of Arabism. He called on the Arab governments to adopt a "frank" attitude toward "this abnormal act" and said Iraq hopes that the Arab League will shoulder its responsibilities, condemn this attack, and take the "appropriate practical measures" against the two regimes, INA added.

In another development large consignments of sophisticated Soviet weapons began arriving in Iraq last week via the Jordanian port of 'Aqaba, the London paper AL-MAJALLAH reported confirming an earlier report.

Lebanon

Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. Negotiations -- The delegations at Khaldah discussed general aspects of the Israeli and Lebanese positions, reviewing in particular the question of security arrangement, an Israeli spokesman announced at the end of the talks in a statement broadcast by IDF Radio. The newly established subcommittees began their work and will meet again in Israel on 25 or 26 January, he added. Voice of Lebanon radio subsequently reported that the subcommittees will not meet until 27 January. IDF Radio said the subcommittees made no real progress at Khaldah, and a Lebanese official source cited by Beirut radio said the talks were held in "a tense atmosphere" with "difficult debates" demonstrating the extent of differences on basic matters. The atmosphere of the debate has caused a problem and creates doubt whether the committees can continue their work, the Lebanese official added.

Noting U.S.-Israeli differences over the manning of early warning stations, Voice of Lebanon radio confirmed Lebanon's agreement that an international force should operate such stations. Meanwhile, Israeli military sources disclosed that Israel wants three stations: one for electronic equipment on Jabal al-Baruk and two other camps more like military bases near Sidon and An-Nabatiyah, HA'ARETZ reported. Although Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that the disagreement with the United States on the early warning stations has made the debate over the withdrawl conditions more difficult, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir later praised the United States' "very useful mediation" in helping bridge the gaps between Israel and Lebanon, according to Jerusalem radio reports.

Security Situation -- The commander of the IDF northern command asserted that the U.S. Marines in Beirut have unwittingly become a buffer shielding the "terrorists," Jerusalem radio reported. While a U.S. military spokesman cited by IDF Radio denied Israeli allegations that the 24 January explosion at Khaldah was caused by a projectile fired from an area under U.S. military control, Jerusalem radio quoted a senior U.S. source as saying that the U.S. Marines cannot completely prevent infiltrations into the areas they control.

In another development the PLO claimed responsibility for a 7 January attack on an IDF patrol south of Beirut and for a 23 January attack on an IDF position near 'Ammiq in the Al-Biqa' valley, according to KUNA and Baghdad Voice of PLO radio.

OPEC

The emergency meeting of OPEC oil ministers in Geneva ended without a firm agreement on a production cut or on production quotas, although the ministers agreed "informally" to set a lower production ceiling of 16.5 million barrels per day, KUNA reported, adding that the talks collapsed over the question of price differentials for African light crude. Saudi Oil Minister Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani described the conference as a "complete failure," KUNA added. According to AFP, Shaykh Yamani said that the Kingdom will "do its best" to maintain OPEC's current reference oil price at $34 per barrel and that the short-term prospects of the oil market are "not bright." AFP also quoted Iranian Oil Minister Mohammad Gharazi as declaring that Saudi Arabia "has lost its major role" within OPEC and that "the political strength of Iran" compelled the Kingdom to reduce its oil production. Kuwaiti Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah announced that Kuwait would "respect" the $34 reference price and that if other OPEC members fail to do so "it is only natural that we protect our interests," KUNA noted.

Syria

Damascus is preparing for an "eventual" Israeli attack, Radio Monte Carlo reported citing a TISHRIN article by Culture Minister Nahah al-'Attar. The minister said Syrian forces are more prepared now than they were during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, stressing that Syria is taking the Israeli threat "seriously." Meanwhile, Syria has received new and sophisticated Soviet military hardware which includes air-to-air missiles and modifications for MIG-23's, as well as a sophisticated network of missiles along the Syrian border with "significant support" from Soviet experts, according to the Paris magazine AL-MUSTAQBAL citing well-informed Arab sources.

PLO

Relations With Jordan -- The Palestinians are prepared for immediate unity with Jordan "on a federal or confederal basis" if a Palestinian state is established, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat told the Paris magazine KUL AL-'ARAB in an interview reported by MENA. The PLO leader expressed satisfaction with his meetings with King Husayn but said he does not share Husayn's optimism about the results of the latter's recent visit to Washington.

London Visit -- The PLO will reply in a week to Britain's latest proposal concerning Palestinian participation in the Arab seven-member committee's visit to London, 'Arafat announced in Aden. In a statement, which was reported by AFP, he also said the Palestinian delegate must be a PLO member, though not necessarily a high-ranking official, and must meet not only Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher but also Queen Elizabeth II.

Egypt

Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj arrived in Cairo for a 2-week visit to Egypt and hopes to meet President Husni Mubarak and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, MENA reported.

Libya

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi returned to Tripoli following his official visit to Romania during which he held talks with Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu and signed a friendship and cooperation treaty, JANA reported.

FBIS DAILY REPORT CONTENTS

Middle East and Africa

Vol V No 017 *25 January 1983*

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

KUNA Reports on Israeli Delegation in Tunis A 1
Palestinians Condemn 'Arafat-Peled Meeting A 1
As-Sa'iqah Command [Damascus] A 1
Fatah Official [Damascus] A 2
Sharur; Liberation Front; PPSF [Damascus] A 2
Palestine Broadcast [Damascus] A 3
PLO Radio on Reaction [Baghdad Voice of PLO] A 4
Details of 'Arafat-Andropov Talks Reported A 5
[Radio Monte Carlo]
INA: Palestinian Delegation To Visit Moscow 'Soon' A 5
Al-Fahum on Relations With Syria, PNC A 6
[Radio Monte Carlo]
Nimr Salih on Palestinian-Syrian Differences A 8
[Radio Monte Carlo]
Al-Wazir Views Problems With Syria A 10
[Radio Monte Carlo]
PFLP's Abu Sharif on Tripoli Statement A 14
[Radio Monte Carlo]
As-Sartawi Urges Palestinian Unity, Moderation A 15
[Radio Monte Carlo]
'Source': PNC Session Likely To Be Postponed [KUNA] A 16

OPEC AFFAIRS

OPEC Session Ends Without Production Agreement B 1
KUNA on Disagreements B 1
Yamani Calls Meeting 'Failure' [KUNA] B 2
Gharazi Calls Meeting 'Victory' [AFP] B 3
Qatari Minister Comments [Doha] B 3

ARABIAN PENINSULA

OMAN

Jordan's Husayn Pays 2-Day Visit to Muscat C 1
Report on Arrival C 1
Meeting With Qabus C 1
Departure for Jordan C 1
Government Lifts State of Emergency for Cosmos C 2

PDRY

'Arafat Arrives in Aden, Makes Statement C 2
Meets With Chairman C 3
Chairman Receives PFLP-GC's Ahmad Jibril C 3
Jibril Departs C 3

EGYPT

MENA Excerpts Mubarak TIME Interview D 1
Mubarak Meets NDP Youths 23 January D 2
Bethlehem Mayor Arrives, Makes Statement D 4
Muslim Brotherhood's AD-DA'WAH Reopens D 4
[AN-NUR 12 Jan]
Talks Underway on PLO Headquarters Transfer D 4
[Manama AKBAR AL-KHALIJ 24 Jan]

IRAQ

Syrian, Libyan 'Collusion' With Iran Condemned E 1
Tariq 'Aziz Replaces Hammadi as Foreign Minister E 2
Hammadi 'Under Treatment' [Radio Monte Carlo] E 2
Armed Forces General Command Communique No 972 E 2
Armed Forces General Command Communique No 973 E 3

JORDAN

King Husayn, Queen Nur To Visit Belgium 26 Jan F 1
King Husayn Returns From Gulf Tour 24 Jan F 1
Soviet Friendship Delegation Concludes Visit F 1
Sees Abu 'Awdah F 1
Signs Agreement [AR-RA'Y 24 Jan] F 1
Departs 24 Jan F 2

LEBANON

Reportage on 24 Jan Negotiations at Khaldah G 1
Talks Concentrate on Security G 1
Ninth Round Ends G 1
Fattal on 24 Jan Round G 2
Pazner Sums Up Talks [Tel Aviv IDF Radio] G 2
Venue of Subcommittees Pending G 3
Beirut Papers Comment G 4
Israeli Paper on Talks [THE JERUSALEM POST 25 Jan] G 4
Al-Jumayyil Receives Report on Habib Talks G 5
Soviet Official Explains USSR Nonintervention G 6
Asimov Criticizes Negotiations G 6
[Radio Free Lebanon]

SYRIA

Khaddam Briefs Cabinet on Arab Contacts H 1
Syrian-USSR Solidarity Statement Reported H 1
USSR Solidarity Official Departs H 2
AL-MUSTAQBAL on New USSR Military Aid to Syria [22 Jan] H 2
Syrian-PLO Officials Meet in Damascus [Radio Monte Carlo] H 3
PLO Radio Report [Baghdad Voice of PLO] H 3
Al-Ahmar Receives Palestinian Communist Officials H 3
Radio Monte Carlo Cites TISHRIN on Preparedness H 4
AL-BA'TH Criticizes U.S. Reaction to SAM-5's H 4

ISRAEL

Prime Minister Appears Before Knesset Committee I 1
JERUSALEM POST Account [25 Jan] I 2
Knesset Committee Says Sharon 'Must Resign' I 3
Begin Visit Postponed; Sharmir Praises U.S. Role I 4
[JERUSALEM POST 25 Jan]
Avoidance of Clashes With U.S. Marines Stressed I 4
Ben-Me'ir on Warning Stations in Lebanon I 5
Warning Stations To Be Like 'Regular Army Bases' I 7
[HA'ARETZ 24 Jan]
MA'ARIV Views 'Crisis' in Relations With U.S. [24 Jan] I 8
'Large' IDF Group Sent To Disarm Druze I 9

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

Iranian Official To Discuss Algerian Accord [IRNA] Q 1
Austrian Foreign Minister Pahr Visits 23-24 Jan Q 1
[Vienna WIENER ZEITUNG 23 Jan]
Talks With Ibrahimi Q 1
Departs Algiers 24 Jan Q 2
Zambian Prime Minister Concludes Visit Q 2
Joint Communique Issued Q 3
Mugabe Departs Q 5

LIBYA

Report on Al-Qadhdhafi Romania, Bulgaria Visits Q 5

MOROCCO

Cooperation Memorandum Signed With Saudi Arabia [SPA] Q 5

SUDAN

Security Council Discusses Railway Attack Q 6
PRC Friendship Delegation Welcomed 23 Jan Q 6

EAST AFRICA

KENYA

Kenya, Ethiopia Condemn Somalia in Communique R 1
Communique on Kenyan-Ethiopian Border Meeting R 2

WEST AFRICA

BENIN

Kerekou Receives Ghanaian, Nigerian Envoys T 1
Interior Minister on Sheltering Foreigners T 2

GHANA

'Thousands' Return After Expulsion From Nigeria T 2
Ministry Hints at Negotiations With Benin T 3
Benin Foreign Minister Arrives T 3

IVORY COAST

Motions Support Moving Capital to Yamoussoukro T 4

NIGER

Kountche Carries Out Ministerial Reshuffle 24 Jan T 4
AFP Report T 4
New Cabinet List T 4

NIGERIA

Ports Authority Asks Illegal Aliens To Leave T 5
Employers Asked Not To Get Permits for Immigrants T 6
Shagari Leaves for India, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia T 6
Palme Commission Advocates UN Recommendations T 6
AFP Report T 7

TOGO

Correspondent Report From Border With Benin T 8

SOUTHERN AFRICA

ANGOLA

Arrested Party Activists Released 21 Jan U 1

BOTSWANA

Peter Musi Appointed New Vice President [Johannesburg] U 1

MOZAMBIQUE

3-Year Trade Agreement Signed With USSR U 1

SOUTH AFRICA

Reportage on Resumption of Talks With Angola U 2
Johannesburg Cites THE STAR U 2
THE STAR Report [21 Jan] U 2
2-Month Hostilities Suspension [Lisbon] U 3
Arrival of U.S. Delegation U 3
Official Reaction U 3
Botha on Negotiations U 4
Foreign Minister Views Relations With U.S. U 4
Johannesburg Migrant Rules Apparently Tightened U 5
[THE STAR 20 Jan]

KUNA REPORTS ON ISRAELI DELEGATION IN TUNIS

LD221638 Kuwait KUNA in English 1229 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Text] Tunis, Jan 22 (KUNA) -- The three Israeli leaders of the Peace Now movement who met with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat here recently have landed in the Carthage airport and were scrambled out through the VIP lounge without passing the passport and customs regulations, a reliable source told KUNA here Saturday. The source added that PLO representative in Tunis Hasan Bal'awi and member of the Palestine National Council 'Isam as-Sartawi received the Israelis at the airport.

The Israelis boarded a mini-bus from the plane to Bal'awi's BMW and immediately headed to his villa in Qamret area for a meeting with 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas and Imad Shakkur, the source concluded. It was not known, however, whether the plane came from Rome or Paris.

Nothing was so far officially announced by the PLO on the discussion during that meeting which took place last Thursday.

Meanwhile, the Tunisian media announced for the first time Friday night a brief report on the meeting after a 24-hour blackout. The Tunisian news agency quoted AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE rather than KUNA, which was the first world agency to announce the reported meeting.

PALESTINIANS CONDEMN 'ARAFAT-PELED MEETING

As-Sa'iqah Command

JN211434 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 21 Jan 83

[Text] The Popular Liberation War Vanguards-As-Sa'iqah forces today condemned the recent meeting between a ranking Palestinian delegation and an Israeli delegation led by General Peled. This came in a statement issued today by the General Command of the As-Sa'iqah forces. The following is the text of the statement:

As part of the plan to cause despair and frustration to our Palestinian people so they cannot face the reactionary-imperialist-Zionist plots to liquidate their revolution and fateful cause -- an atmosphere under which our people are expected to accept the capitulatory U.S. designs -- we are hearing about another contact between people in the Palestinian leadership and Zionist elements under false and misleading slogans that belittle the intelligence of the Arab and Palestinian citizens and under claims of trying to penetrate the Zionist society. These acts and suspicious contacts fragment and disrupt Palestinian national unity because they contradict the Palestinian revolution's resolutions and the PLO's legislative and executive institutions, Furthermore, these acts and contacts violate the Palestinian National Charter and harm our people's fateful cause.

These contacts constitute an Israeli political and psychological offensive which was to have destroyed the Palestinian structure after the enemy succeeded in dealing a military blow during the recent barbaric invasion of Lebanon.

The inpudence and scorn of our people's struggle and our citizens' integrity have reached the extent that our enemies have announced that they desire to participate in our PNC meetings, thus disgracing the sanctity of the PNC. They want to witness by process of their political offensive to tear our people's national unity and destroy the pillars of the PLO, particularly since national unity is the backbone of the PLO.

General Peled, head of the Israeli delegation which recently met with a ranking Palestinian delegation in Tunis, is one of the leading figures of the Zionist military institution. These suspicious contacts, which exonerate traitor Anwar as-Sadat and his treasonous capitulatory scheme, today provide a Palestinian cover for the Jordanian regime as well as other treacherous Arab regimes which are waiting to grasp the best opportunities to join the bandwagon of the U.S. imperialist settlement design in order to liquidate the Palestinian cause.

As we condemn and warn against these suspicious contacts, we pledge to confront them and face the clique which is risking the future of our people and their sacred cause.

Fatah Official

JN220728 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 21 Jan 83

[Text] Fatah Central Committee member Brother Nimr Salih, alias Abu Salih, has denounced the recent meeting in Tunis between a Palestinian and a Zionist delegation.

Abu Salih stressed that this meeting was a blatant violation of national commitment and a serious step on the road toward harming the Palestinian people's national rights and the Arab nation's supreme rights. It was also a deviation from the PNC resolutions condemning any contact with any Zionist organization.

Brother Abu Salih added that the recent meeting between Palestinian and Zionist officials, which completed the dialogue which had begun in the Austrian capital, in addition to the other political activities in the Jordanian and Egyptian capitals, serves the U.S. scheme at the expense of our people and nation and is in harmony with the demands of the United States and its allies.

Brother Abu Salim called on Palestinian organizations and all revolutionary and nationalist forces in the Palestinian arena to adopt a decisive stand to expose and foil this course, protect the PLO, and maintain it as a political entity. He also called for the implementation of the recent Tripoli statement to protect the Palestinian revolution.

Sharur; Liberation Front; PPSF

JN230750 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] Fadl Sharur, secretary of the Political Bureau of the PFLP-General Command, has condemned the recent meeting between a high-level Palestinian delegation and a Zionist delegation led by General Matityahu Peled. In a statement yesterday, Fadl Sharur stressed that the course of reconciliation [sulh] and negotiations adopted by some symbols of the Palestinian revolution may have tragic dimensions in the near future if there is no revolutionary stand to deter the deviationists and the defeatists who have become involved in conspiracies with the king of Jordan.

The Palestinian Liberation Front [PLF] also issued a statment yesterday condemning the meetings. It considered them part of the attempts to impose a settlement on the Arabs in accordance with Zionist conditions.

The front denounced those sides who adopt these trends whether they are Palestinians or Arabs. The front added that these sides have not even benefited from the history of the dispute in the region. They have not read the history of the Zionist movement, nor do they understand its objectives.

The PLF stressed that the dispute with imperialism and Zionism will not end with a settlement, regardless of its form, and promoting a settlement is promoting an anti-nationalist culture and paving the way for accepting what was, in the past, considered treason.

The Palestinian Popular Struggle Front [PPSF] issued a similar statement condemning these meetings. The PPSF said these meetings are a blatant violation of Palestinian national struggle. The front added that such meetings come within the framework of a course adopted by some PLO leaders who give themselves the right to dispose of decisions and policies which pose a threat to Palestinian national unity and expose the Palestinian arena to further differences and fragmentation. This will create chaos among the ranks of our Palestinian masses inside and outside the homeland.

The PPSF stressed that this course calls for exposing these dangers policies which harm the core of the Arab-Zionist dispute. The front also stressed that continued deviation from agreed decisions and national programs and nonabidance by them confirm the policy of unilateral practices and hegemony which has been going on for years, flouting all nationalist forces. This will create an imbalance in the Palestinians state of affairs and the Palestinian people will become more divided and frustrated.

Concluding, the PPSF called for giving up this policy which serves only the parties which wager on the current political solutions which constitute a step toward and a prelude to the liquidation of the Palestinian cause.

Palestine Broadcast

JN222122 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Palestine Broadcast: unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers: Considering the world in which we live, the PLO, our sole legitimate representative, has the right to hold any contacts that are beneficial to the Palestinian cause and that contribute toward the restoration of the Palestinian people's rights. There can be no argument about that. However, there is the important point that this principle of the right of the Palestinian people and the PLO to hold contacts or dialgoue with others is not unlimited. Like all the principles in any revolution, it is governed, not by obstacles, but by rules, restrictions, and particularly by the Palestinian National Charter. Even if the charter did not contain definite rules to this effect, we may find such rules in the resolutions of the various Palestinian national conferences and councils.

The Palestinian Charter and the PNC resolutions are very accurate in this regard. Even if they were inaccurate, there is always the criterion of the closeness of that party which the Palestinians or the PLO wants to contact to the rights of the Palestinian people. Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky is of Jewish origin, but he has become fairly close to some of our Palestinian national rights. Therefore, nobody objects to contacts between him and any Arab or Palestinian side. In view of this criterion, we wonder whether the Israeli Peace Now movement has become close enough to the rights of our Palestinian people. Facts speak for themselves.

Following the Sabra and Shatila massacres, this movement came out with a successful demonstration. But we know what happened after that. The demonstration was a tool to exculpate Israel of the blood of the Palestinian people. The Zionist entity's President Navon himself, when commenting on this demonstration, did not speak of the massacres but held the view that the demonstration was a mere reflection of Israeli democracy, as he put it.

The procedure was as follows: Israel wipes out the Arab people of Palestine, and Israeli demonstrations against this begin so that the Israeli leaders may sing the praises of Israeli democracy. This means that this alleged Israeli democracy does not live without transfusions of Palestinian blood.

It may be argued that this stand is taken by the Israeli Government and not by the Peace Now movement. This is not true, because the movement's slogans are clear. In the aforementioned demonstration, it demanded the resignation of Begin. It might have also demanded a halt to Israel's involvement in Lebanon. That is all there is to it.

This movement has not yet shown sympathy for Palestinian self-determination; it has not sympathized with the establishment of a Palestinian national state. We use the term sympathize because the term support in this case would be too strong. On the contrary, this movement has called on the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to coexist with what is called the Jewish people. This means that it supports the autonomy plot within the Camp David and Reagan plan frameworks.

It is obvious then that the Peace Now movement is not only very far from the Palestinian rights but also hostile to them in the same measure to Begin, the Likud, and the Labor Party are. This means that the above criterion does not apply in the case of the Israeli Peace Now movement. It is still a movement which is hostile to the Palestinian people and to their rights and fate. The dialogue with it is, therefore, futile.

As for the probable participation of this movement's representatives in forthcoming PNC meetings, we say that this is a bad joke which should not be repeated, out of respect for our martyrs.

PLO Radio on Reaction

JN221730 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Text] Arab and international media have highlighted the meeting held by Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] with a number of Israeli-Palestinian peace committee members. These media carried reports on this meeting on their front pages and in radio newscasts. The media also highlighted the reaction to the meeting from Zionists who demanded that the peace committee members, led by General Matityahu Peled, be put on trial.

Brother Abu 'Ammar met with an Israeli-Palestinian peace committee delegation comprising Matityahu Peled, Yuri Avneri, and Ya'aqov Arnun.

The meeting was attended by Brother Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], PLO Executive Committee member, and Dr 'Isam as-Sartawi, member of the PNC. During the meeting the two sides reviewed the Middle East situation in detail and discussed means of joint action to establish a permanent, just peace in the Middle East.

Brother Abu 'Ammar expressed appreciation for the role played by the forces of the Israeli peace movement and their struggle for a just and permanent peace.

The meeting sparked angry, sharp reactions from Zionist circles, particularly the Likud Party, which is the party of terrorist Menahem Begin. A Likud Knesset member demanded that the committee members be tried. The opposition Labor Party in Israel also announced its objection to the meeting.

During its latest meeting in Damascus, the PNC stressed the importance of dialogue with those Jewish forces which support the Palestinian rights to self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state as a basis for a just and permanent peace in the region.

DETAILS OF 'ARAFAT-ANDROPOV TALKS REPORTED

JN211836 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1745 GMT 21 Jan 83

[Dispatch by Radio Monte Carlo correspondent in Damascus Louis Faris carried within "It Happened Tomorrow Program" -- date not given -- recorded]

[Excerpt] Syrian-Palestinian differences occupied an important part of the talks held in Moscow recently between Yasir 'Arafat and Yuriy Andropov. 'Arafat asked Soviet leaders to rearm the Palestinian forces, saying that some arms had not reached them because they were confiscated.

Andropov answered by saying that that was the first time the Palestinian resistance had asked the USSR to provide arms since the Beirut battle and this needed political approval by the Soviet Foreign Ministry before being implemented by the Soviet Defense Ministry Andropov added: Soviet arms will be shipped to Syria and therefore you have to coordinate with Syria.

Here 'Arafat requested the Soviet leader to help in coordinating this.

Andropov answered: We will help you, but it is up to you to make the bigger effort. Andropov warned 'Arafat and the Palestinian delegation saying verbatim: You must coordinate with Syria if you want to remain alive.

Abu 'Ammar understood that the Soviet Union did not want to be involved in the Syrian-Palestinian differences.

Naturally, the talks dealt with Palestinian relations with Jordan. After listening to 'Arafat's explanation, Andropov showed understanding with reservation, meaning that a confederation with Jordan may come following the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and on the basis of individual choice [al-khayar al-fardi]. During the talks, Andropov said verbatim: You must endeavor to keep Jordan away from President Reagan's project as you did in 1978 when you succeeded in keeping Jordan out of the Camp David deal.

INA: PALESTINIAN DELEGATION TO VISIT MOSCOW 'SOON'

JN211436 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1350 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Text] Marrakech, 21 Jan (INA) -- It has been learned here today that a Palestinian delegation led by Khalid al-Hasan, PLO Executive Committee member [title as received], will visit Moscow soon. It has also been learned that the delegation will hold talks with Soviet officials to complete the talks PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat started during his recent visit to Moscow.

AL-FAHUM ON RELATIONS WITH SYRIA, PNC

JN211954 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 21 Jan 83

[Interview granted by PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum to news director Antoine Nawfal on the weekly program "It Happened Tomorrow" -- date, place not given -- recorded]

[Text] In his capacity as PNC speaker, Khalid al-Fahum works to prevent the further deepening of Palestinian-Syrian differences. He is convinced and deeply believes that what he terms the disparity between Damascus and the PLO leader ['Arafat] will be settled. First let us hear what he has to say about the possibility of holding a PNC meeting under the current circumstances.

[Al-Fahum] Various factions of the Palestinian resistance movement are generally convinced of the importance of further bolstering and promoting relations with Syria. Naturally, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat agrees completely. Moreover, the brothers in Syria also believe this. I want to stress that our relations with Syria are based on the fact that Syria is a power for the PLO and vice versa. Both sides now constitute the first trench facing expansionist Israeli designs and U.S. atempts to obliterate the Palestinian cause and our people's rights to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of their own independent state on Palestinian soil.

Relations with Syria are strategic. Although we may have some disparity in our judgement on certain issues, we still continue the dialogue to achieve common convictions. The two sides are willing to achieve such an objective.

[Question] Then there are still differences between the two sides. What does each side want to end these differences?

[Answer] There is disparity but there are not differences. There is disparity in judgment on certain issues. However, there is a continued dialogue. I am certain that we will achieve a complete agreement, which is important in our relations with Syria.

[Question] In your opinion, what does each side require in order to conquer these difficulties?

[Answer] I told you that there is a joint conviction in Syria and among us in the various factions of the resistance movement that it is important to maintain our strong and strategic relations. It is quite natural to have some disparity on certain issues. Only through a constructive and positive dialogue can we solve differences or disparities. I believe that we are proceeding well. I am very optimistic about our relations with Syria.

[Question] Based on this optimism, do you expect a Palestinian-Syrian summit prior to the PNC session?

[Answer] Actually, we have not studied this. We have not studied this issue. Everything is possible, yet I repeat that we have not studied this. I cannot say yes or no. What is important, as I have said, is to preserve our good and strong relations.

[Question] Let us assume that the disparity between your opinions continues until the upcoming PNC session. Do you then believe that the PNC session would still be held and would be attended by all the Palestinian resistance factions and officials?

[Answer] First, I stress that the brothers in Syria are alongside the PLO and Palestinian national unity. Everything is based on Palestinian national unity. I would like to assure you, brother Antoine, of the fact that Syria does not interfere in our internal affairs. Syria does not tell one faction to go or not to go and it doesn't go. These are matters that concern us alone. We are aware of and are quite used to such affairs. Therefore, arrangements are underway to hold the PNC session. You know that I have invited guests from all over the world to attend the session. Invitations have also been sent to the PNC members and we are still completing the other arrangements throught the dialogue taking place at the special committee which was formed to prepare for the PNC session.

[Question] What about the committee preparing for the PNC session which you chair?

[Answer] This committee is preparing for a political declaration. We do not intend to propose a political program to the PNC because we have the program endorsed during the PNC's 14th session. So, we are now preparing for a political declaration. I assure you that this committee, which includes representatives of all the Palestinian resistance factions and has already met twice, is continuing its work and has reached a complete agreement regarding most of the issues. There are still some issues that we intend to discuss in our upcoming meeting in Aden next week. This meeting will be attended by the general secretaries of the Palestinian factions, the PLO Executive Committee, and the PNC chairmanship. Hence, I say that preparations are underway in the Palestinian arena. It is my duty to work in the direction of preserving the Palestinian national unity which, in my opinion, is a very important and fundamental issue regarding the future of the Palestinian struggle.

[Question] What do you think the general inclination will be?

[Answer] You know that the PNC has 350 members and absolute freedom and complete democracy prevail. I can stress that the general inclination will be: first, to preserve the Palestinian national unity; second, to underline further that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people; third, we cannot make any concession regarding our rights in repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of our independent Palestinian state; and fourth, we cannot accept the Reagan plan. I can assure you of this regardless of what has been said here or there. This is almost a common denominator among most of the Palestinians -- not to accept the Reagan plan and not to join negotiations similar to the Camp David agreements with the United States and Israel. We are with the Fes summit resolutions, which we consider as the minimum of the Arab moves. We support the idea of holding an international conference within the UN framework. We reject any talks with the United States and Israel similar to Camp David.

[Question] The Fes summit resolutions do not completely disapprove of the U.S. plan. Actually, the dialogue with the U.S. side began through the Fes summit resolutions.

[Answer] We are in favor of having a dialogue with the United States. Our policy has always favored any dialogue with the United States and all the world's states. The truth remains that 99 percent or more of the Reagan plan opposes and contradicts the Fes summit resolutions. The text of the plan is clear and needs no judgment. Reagan does not want the PLO. He does not recognize the Palestinians' right to self-determination. He denies our right to establish our independent Palestinian state. Therefore, one can see that there is a big contradiction between the Reagan plan and the Fes resolution.

[Question] Does this mean that one should give up the dialogue with the United States?

[Answer] We must continue the dialogue with the U.S. people and with the U.S. Administration in order to have more U.S. understanding of the justice of the Palestinian cause, the Arab-Zionist struggle and the Middle East conflict. In the Reagan plan, the United Snates is completely biased toward Israel and the Israeli expansion. The dialogue must continue. We as Palestinians and Arabs must exert our best efforts in this direction stemming from the minimum limit of the Fes summit resolutions. I believe that no Arab country must relinquish the Fes resolutions. In my opinion, when we have any dialogue with the United States, we must take into consideration the U.S. interests and our desire to have an understanding with and good relations with the people of the United States.

NIMR SALIH ON PALESTINIAN-SYRIAN DIFFERENCES

JN212226 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1752 GMT 21 Jan 83

[Interview with Nimr Salih, Fatah Central Committee member, carried within the weekly program "It Happened Tomorrow" -- date, place not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Question] Abu Salih [Nimr Salih], whose membership in the Fatah Central Committee is said to have been frozen, has his own opinion regarding Syrian-Palestinian relations, the Tripoli statement, and the recent meeting between Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli General Peled.

[Answer] The Syrian-Palestinian differences began at the Fes summit regarding the Arab peace plan and the phrase referring to the recognition of Israel. I believe that the attempts to repeat the story of differences with Syria intend to create a real disagreement between Syria and the Palestinian revolution.

The Americans want the Reagan plan to be successful. Such success demands the existence of a Syrian-Palestinian disagreement because the Palestinian revolution needs an Arab depth to back it. This depth exists only in Syria. Furthermore, because of its pan-Arab role in the struggle against Israel, Syria needs the aid of all the Arab strugglers, particularly the Palestinian revolution. Hence, there are attempts to revive the story of differences between Syria and the Palestinians. These attempts, I believe, intend to cause confusion. I also believe that there are no differences between us and Syria nowadays.

[Question] Yet the Arabs, including Syria, have agreed on the Fes summit resolutions.

[Answer] We the Palestinians are the side concerned with the cause. We distinguish between our stand and the official Arab stand. The official Arab stand, which depends on the resolutions of the United Nations and the Security Council, has its excuses for either accepting our rejecting the Fes summit plan. Yet, for us Palestinians, our recognition of Israel will waive our claim to our struggle and cancels our present and strategic objectives.

[Question] Then, in your opinion, does the Tripoli statement abolish the Fes resolutions?

[Answer] Yes. The PLO Central Council had previously abolished the Fes resolutions.

[Question] Do you also believe that Syria has also relinquished the Fes resolutions?

[Answer] Syria can answer that. However, we believe that the Fes resolutions were not meant to be obligatory. They were meant to be a threshold leading to the Reagan plan. Syria, through its Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, rejected the Reagan plan. This is something that we highly appreciate and esteem.

[Question] At the beginning of this interview you said that there are no differences between Syria and the Palestinian resistance. Well, why hasn't there been a meeting between Abu 'Amar [Yasir 'Arafat] and President Hafiz al-Asad? Do you expect such a meeting in the near future?

[Answer] The current Arab situation is very critical and there are efforts extending from Syria through Tripoli and Aden to rearrange the Arab situation. Therefore, a unified Palestinian stand is needed. There are sides that do not wish to see the Syrian-Palestinian relations straightened out on the basis of confronting the Zionist designs in Lebanon and the Arab area. These sides continue to instigate differences with Syria. So, what we need to do now is to unite the Palestinian stand. We have to outline the features of the independent Palestinian decision. We have to define the ground underlining the independent decisionmaking. It is my opinion that the activities taking place in Amman, Egypt, and Morocco do not serve the national independent decisionmaking. These activities intend to undermine the national independence and the serious alliance among the Palestinian revolution, the Lebanese Nationalist Movement, and Syria in accordance with the Reagan plan.

So what we have now is the Tripoli statement on the one side and on the other there are the successive violations of the PNC's resolutions, the latest of which was yesterday's meeting between a Palestinian delegation and an Israeli delegation. This meeting threatens the Palestinian national interests and higher pan-Arab interests as well. We are now discussing the adoption of a general stand on this meeting, which violates the PNC's resolutions.

[Question] You know that meetings with the Israeli peace movement are not new.

[Answer] The PNC's recent session denounced any contact with any Zionist movement.

[Question] Even if this movement supports the Palestinian cause?

[Answer] The PNC did not recognize the contacts held in the past. The PNC had actually condemned such contacts. Yesterday's meeting was with Zionists who believe in Zionism.

[Question] By this, you are condemning Yasir 'Arafat.

[Answer] This is how we consider any meeting that does not agree with the PNC's resolutions. Therefore, the perpetrators of such meetings are being held responsible.

AL-WAZIR VIEWS PROBLEMS WITH SYRIA

JN212058 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Jan 83

[Telephone interview from Damascus with Khail al-Wazir, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, identified by his nom de Guerre Abu Jihad, by correspondent Nabil Darwish within weekly program "It Happened Tomorrow," date not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Question] What is the story about Syrian-Palestinian relations?

[Answer] We must be frank when talking about Palestinian-Syrian relations. We must also set the objective: Is it to flex muscles over the nature of the problem or to address a very warm appeal to end all problems in Palestinian-Syrian relations? When talking about these relations, we must first recall a number of facts which we believe.

First, Palestinian-Syrian relations have deep roots. They are historical relations between two peoples. We struggled together in our historic revolutions, in the days of the martyr leader 'Izz ad-Din al-Qassam.

Second, I do not want to go into detail concerning our relations after the outbreak of our revolution in 1965 -- how revolutionary Syria placed us under its care and enabled us to continue our armed struggle at a time when the unified Arab leadership had taken a decision to hunt down our strugglers in neighboring countries -- Egypt, the Gaza sector, Jordan, and Lebanon.

Third, we in Fatah and the Palestinian revolution view our relations with Syria as important and essential. This view is dictated by the common history, nature, and struggle of both peoples. It is dictated by political, geopolitical, historical, and pan-Arab factors. It is dictated by our common principles, aspirations, sufferings, and commitments to our national and pan-Arab issues. This is why we have always stressed that, regardless of any problems between us, we have no choice but to remain together in one trench and stand side by side in the face of the common enemy and danger.

Fourth, there have been many development in our relations over the past 18 years. Sometimes these relations were normal and sometimes they were marked by suspicion and concern; yet, at other times, they were tense. These relations reached the stage of disagreement which developed into a clash in 1976 [in Lebanon]. On other occasions these relations were intimate and chacterized by cohesion, coordination, and cooperation.

During this long relationship, with all its ups and downs, there has always been a common desire to seek points of agreement and avoid points of disagreement. We do not deny -- and we are now speaking from a sense of duty and gratitude -- Syria's sacrifices and continuous participation in repulsing aggression when the Zionist enemy air force was attacking our bases in the Golan, Dar's, As-Suwayda', Latakia, Tartus, Al-Hamah, and Dummar in Damascus. Fatah and the Palestinian revolution have always been of the opinion that this relationship must be consolidated and protected from sabotage. But the question we are asking now is: Why is there talk now about differences?

[Question] Allow me to ask you a question: Before the Beirut battle Syrian-Palestinian relations reached their climax. Syrian and Lebanese leaders used to talk about strategic relations between them. After Beirut everything changed. Not a single Palestinian summit has been held since then. Hence I am justified in asking: What were the changes caused by the Beirut battle?

[Answer] Let me draw certain lines. Let us start with the invasion of Lebanon and the siege of Beirut. During the first days of the battle the Syrians did not take part in the fighting. Then the Beirut siege began, followed by the battles in Al-Biqa' and the Lebanese mountain. During the battles we had various concepts and judgements on the battle developments. Sometimes these judgements opposed each other. During the siege we thought the battle should be expanded and not be confined to Beirut. During the seige we supported the opening of other fronts everywhere. The Syrian view was different at that time. Their view was that it was they who should set the place and time for the battle. They did not respond to the enemy attempts to drag them into a battle of his own making.

[Question] As a military leader and after the battle of Beirut, which of these views do you support?

[Answer] Everyone has his own standards and views. Syria decided it had confined the battle to Beirut and that it would take part in the fighting only through its forces in Beirut if the enemy decided the same. This was their view; they were free to take this stand. Our view was different. At that time we wanted the battle to expand; we wanted all the fronts open. We wanted major participation from all the Arab parties, not only Syria. At that time we expected the forces of the entire Arab nation to enter the battle because that was the main battleground against the enemy. This was one of the disputed issues. There were also differences with regard to PLO political moves during the Beirut siege. There were differences on the nature of these moves.

[Question] It is said that there were other differences. It is said that Syria had told the Palestinian leaders that it wanted them to be more steadfast in Beirut.

[Answer] The steadfastness resistance in Beirut was legendary. We remained steadfast for 79 days. It is more than any nation could bear. Everyone knew what steadfastness meant and why. It was not steadfastness just for the sake of steadfastness. It was steadfastness for the sake of result; a military result in the form of reinforcements which might break the siege, or a political result in the form of a political solution.

[Question] It may be said that the manner in which the evacuation of the Palestinian resistance was effected and the principle of that evacuation were opposed by Syria.

[Answer] We will come to that. I have some observations to make. After the war meetings took place with Syria to restore normal relations, particularly when questions were asked on why 'Arafat left Beirut for Athens and Tunis and why the Palestinian forces were distributed among various areas outside Syria. We said that we could not do otherwise. However, the Syrian brothers informed us at that time, that due to circumstances in Syria, Syria could not accept the entire Palestinian force but only a limited number. Therefore, we had to distribute our forces. Then other issues cropped up. Some say that the Syrian leaders received reports about Palestinian statements criticizing the Syrian position during and after the battle. Some say that there is a media mobilization campaign against the Syrian position. They believe that this was launched by orders from Palestinian leaders, particularly from Fatah. We say that this did not take place at all. Nobody ordered such campaigns.

The question is: Is it necessary to have policies, stands, and steps identical to Syria's? We say that it isn't. We are a revolution and an organization. Our people and our struggle have complicated circumstances. We have backgrounds, views, and judgments which are different from the views, interests, and logic of Syria, a state which has its laws, borders, army, agreements, and relations. We have our own concepts and standards and we are sensitive about the independence of Palestinian national decisionmaking. That is what we always say. This may provoke displeasure among certain parties in Syria who consider this a logic of the regionalists.

Syria regards itself as the base for pan-Arab action -- that it is more entitled to discuss Palestinian issues than any other Arab state. We say that we are not regionalists; in our political decisions, we contact our brothers. However, we are entitled to follow the path and policy we want. Syria also has the right to adopt decisions on the form of its leadership, legislative bodies, executive authority, and all its internal organizations. In its foreign policy and relations, Syria acts in accordance with its own interest and circumstances. We also are of the view that we should move in accordance with out own views concerning the problems facing our organization, our political moves, and our relations.

[Question] Let us be frank. The Syrians always say that there are no differences between them and the Palestinians. However, there may be differences on 'Arafat's political moves. It may be said that the Tripoli statement is not a Syrian statement but it shows certain trends. If there are agreements between Syria's views and certain Palestinian views, then we cannot speak of the independence of Palestinian decisionmaking in such a manner. Am I right?

[Answer] We say that the fears of the Syrian brothers can be dissipated when we meet together and discuss issues in order to reach common paths. Certainly, there will not be big differences on political issues. I say that there are attempts to interpret certain moves. This interpretation is sometimes affected by wrong information, by rumors and news items. For example, a news item from Cairo may say that a Cairo newspaper quoted 'Arafat on certain issues. Some people may interpret this as an indication that 'Arafat will visit Cairo soon, and other such talk. Naturally, we should not forget that some are trying to sabotage us. They try to provoke certain parties. 'Arafat has already said: The closer we are, the further we will be from Camp David. Nobody seems to have heard this. Some people even cast doubt on such statements. We say that when we sit down together we will define our stands. On the Reagan plan, our position is clear. It was enunciated in our statements. There are no differences on this point. In the Aden statements we discussed this and agreed on common paths. We said that the Reagan plan does not meet the aspirations of our people. We said that the Reagan plan rejects the Palestinian state, Palestinian self-determination, and the PLO. It is a plot against our cause and people.

[Question] Recent official Syrian criticism and press comments have concentrated on relations with Jordan.

[Answer] Some people say that we have entered into a Jordanian-Iraqi-Saudi axis, that the PLO has become entangled in such a line. We have said many times, even from the heart of Amman, that the Palestinian revolution is not part of any axis. It is for all the Arabs who should be with the Palestinians and the cause. We stressed that the deepening of the relations with Jordan does not mean a commitment to a certain axis against another. The lesson we learned in Beirut was very eloquent. During the Beirut battle the official Arab stand was painful. The Arabs did not respond to the calls for a summit until after the end of the Beirut siege. This was due to the Arab dismemberment and its effect on the result of the Lebanese war.

[Question] It appears from what you have said, Abu Jihad, that there would be many things to be said between Syrian and Palestinian officials if matters were discussed frankly. But to discuss matters frankly, a high-level meeting or a summit must be held. There have been several Arab mediations. For instance, there is the mediation by the PDRY president, which did not achieve anything. A Syrian-Palestinian summit has not been held and the PNC is about to meet. What do you have to say on this subject?

[Answer] Let me say that we have always believed that mediation does not work out in our relationship with our Syrian brothers. The only thing that works out is common conviction. We must be convinced that we must sit together and solve our problems, we are not far away from one another. I am speaking to you from Damascus and meetings are continuing. But we say that we must sit together and speak frankly. They have observations to make and we also have many observations to make on certain stands and issues which we have every right to raise and obtain answers to.

[Question] Could you tell us some of your observations?

[Answer] It is better for these observations to be placed on the table between us and our brothers in a frank and clear talk based on mutual trust. This is the main thing. The question urgently raised now is: Even when faced by all these problems, should we stand helplessly and lament our relationship? The answer is no. Fatah and the Palestinian revolution are determined to maintain a correct and sound relationship. We have repeated this in all meetings. What is required now is to raise a new Arab voice that goes beyond the minimum level of the Fes plan so as to end the fatal Arab inaction which we witnessed during and after the war, the inaction which generated weakness and, regrettably, instilled in our nation a sense of subjection, fear, and surrender to enemy will.

[Question] But permit me to go back a little, Abu Jihad. A declaration called the Tripoli declaration appeared recently. This declaration, which was issued by several Palestinian organizations, has changed many political facts, especially on the Palestinian level. Do you believe the Tripoli declaration has anything to do with the Syrian-Palestinian dispute? And what is the position of the Palestinian organizations? Has there been any dialogue with those Palestinian organizations which signed this declaration?

[Answer] Dialogue does not stop among us in the Palestinian arena. Meetings are held every minute. Before the Tripoli declaration, there was the Aden declaration. The Aden declaration was signed by most of our brothers in the various organizations. We agreed on certain points. Despite everything, let me say that we are not concerned about a declaration issued in Tripoli, Aden, Damascus, or anywhere else. We say that new meetings will be held which are, in fact, a continuation of past meetings. These meetings will set the basic lines and program for political action in the coming phase. This will be specified by the PNC. Fourteen February is not far away. In the next 2 or 3 weeks, and even before the convocation of the council, there will be a general crystallization of all these issues and agreement on these lines. We would like to assure all those who are concerned about what is happening in the Palestinian arena that the maturity of the sons of the Palestinian revolution is stronger than anything else. We are not concerned about declarations issued here and there due to certain circumstances. Let us say that the coming days will define the course agreed upon by all. This is what will be approved by the council.

[Question] I understand from your answer that you do not like to go into detail on this subject pending the meetings of the competent Palestinian institutions. But my last question is: What about the Syrian-Palestinian relationship now? What practical steps are you suggesting to settle this relationship?

[Answer] A committee will follow up this subject and meet with our Syrian brothers. In light of the results of the committee's work, a summit meeting will be held between Brother President al-Asad and Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] to end these disputes. We are confident that the maturity...[interrupted]

[Question] A Syrian-Palestinian summit before the PNC session?

[Answer] Before or after the session, although I believe that it might take after the council session so the discussions would be cordial and calm and so we can define the future course in light of the council's decisions.

PFLP'S ABU SHARIF ON TRIPOLI STATEMENT

JN212300 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1820 GMT 21 Jan 83

[Interview granted by Bassam Abu Sharif, official PFLP spokesman, to Nabil Darwish on the weekly program "It Happened Tomorrow" -- date, place not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Question] Is the Tripoli declaration part of the Palestinian-Syrian dispute?

[Answer] The PFLP took part in the Tripoli meeting, which issued a political statement stressing a number of political issues and general principles which are upheld by the organizations signing the statement. This does not mean that the organizations which did not sign the statement reject or oppose these general principles. For instance, the statement stressed the following basic point: Palestinian national unity is sacred and all the organizations that signed the statement shall strive to achieve it. The statement also affirmed that the organizations adhere to the sole representation of the Palestinian people; in other words, the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

[Question] But the statement has rejected the Fes peace plan, which resulted from the Arab summit. The PLO leadership was among the sides which approved this plan in Fes.

[Answer] Actually, it is well known that even during the convocation of the Fes meetings and before the announcement of the results, certain Palestinian organizations, including the PFLP, had maintained a different stand on some of the provisions of the Fes agreement [ittifaq]. It is also well known in Palestinian circles that our democratic traditions permit us to differ and argue on political topics. But we never harm national unity for their sake.

[Question] But is is said that the organizations which signed the Tripoli statement should have expressed their opinions within the PLO Executive Committee, especially since they are represented in it.

[Answer] I must point out here that it is very wrong to imagine that what has taken place in Tripoli represents a new bloc in the Palestinian arena. The Tripoli statement does not indicate at all the existence of a new bloc against another. In my opinion also, the Tripoli statement does not conflict with the Aden statement, which was issued after the Palestinian summit there, which was also attended by some of the organizations which attended the Tripoli meeting. Furthermore, it is my opinion that the tactics set out in Aden and the stands upheld by the Palestinian leadership at the Aden meeting were not harmed by the Tripoli statement.

[Question] Let us be frank, Bassam Abu Sharif. You know that during and after the Beirut siege there were certain sensitivities between most Fatah leaders and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdafi. Since this agreement, statement, and discussion took place in Tripoli, will this not intensify the Libyan-Palestinian dispute?

[Answer] During the Beirut siege, the collective Palestinian leadership, not just Fatah, had many observations to make about the ineffective Arab support for the forces besieged in Beirut. Actually, after the departure from Beirut, several points remained pending. We have sought and are still seeking to solve them, because the PLO has to settle its relations with its allies and close its ranks with them so we can ...

[Question -- interrupting] Allow me, Bassam. This is not my question. My question is: Should not all the Palestinian resistance groups, including Fatah, have gone to Tripoli so there would be a unified stand on the basis of the Aden statement, which stressed the independence of the Palestinian decision and Palestinian national unity, as you also stressed in Tripoli?

[Answer] We put on record in Tripoli that we will defend the independent Palestinian decision. We also put on record that we refuse to authorize anyone to speak on behalf of the PLO and to follow any regime. My information is that the invitation was addressed to all the organizations, not just some of them. In my opinion this does not conflict at all with the substance of the points agreed on in Aden.

AS-SARTAWI URGES PALESTINIAN UNITY, MODERATION

JN212306 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1825 GMT 21 Jan 83

[Interview granted by Dr 'Isam as-Sartawi, Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, to Antoine Nawfal in Paris, date not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Question] Dr 'Isam, we want your views, as a moderate, on Syrian-Palestinian differences. What is to be done?

[Answer] Undoubtedly, all Palestinian sides in all our organizations are unanimous in their views that strong Syrian-Palestinian relations should exist as one of the factors of confrontation. However, there are differences in evaluating these relations. Some people say that they are sound relations; and some attempt to belittle the differences. We must be aware that if we want to be sincere in our adherence to these relations we should discuss the problems which have arisen. To try to escape from these problems and pretend to confront them at the same time is to continue the negative aspects of these relations. I am not qualified to enter into the details of these relations. However, I would like to point out some general outlines which are within my duties. The Tripoli statement raises a number of Palestinian and Arab issues. As Palestinian factions, do we approve the fact that we are the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people? Why have some of our factions chosen frameworks other than the PLO to discuss Palestinian issues and Syrian-Palestinian relations? Why have such discussions not taken place within the PLO framework?

Another question: Some Arab parties have taken part in preparing for the Tripoli conference and document. Is this not a violation of the Fes summit resolution, which says that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people? We cannot ignore or bypass such questions. Syrian-Palestinian relations are necessary and important and must be based on clear vision. We must also stress that good relations are a two-way street. We cannot ask only one party to work for their promotion; both parties must contribute toward strengthening and promoting these relations.

I must refer to the issue of moderation and its role in promoting the cause. Moderation means rationalism and realism. We should face and confront these facts using our capabilities and resources. This is the basis on which we can serve ourselves and our cause. We have seen during the Lebanese crisis the evils brought about the extremist views that are not based on accurate evaluation of facts. We have seen by extremist which resulted from this. If we faced our problems rationally, we would have spared ourselves the Lebanese disaster and other disasters which we might face unless we make a deep-rooted review of our confrontation of the events.

[Nawfal] Thank you. I think there are many issues which you would like to discuss this evening. I think we may meet next week.

Thank you Dr 'Isam. I would like to remind our listeners that next week we will spend 1 hour with Dr 'Isam as-Sartawi, who has many things to say.

'SOURCE': PNC SESSION LIKELY TO BE POSTPONED

LD232300 Kuwait KUNA in English 1746 GMT 23 Jan 83

[By Talal al-Ca'id]

[Text] Damascus, Jan 23 (KUNA) -- A session for the National Palestinian Council scheduled for Algiers in mid-February is likely to be postponed due to differences between Palestinian resistance factions, a source close to Palestinian leadership said Sunday. A number of leaders of Palestinian factions will propose the postponement to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat during Monday's meeting in Aden of the PLO Executive Committee, the source told KUNA.

"Outstanding differences between faction leaders on the PLO political activities and conflicting viewpoints regarding developments of the Palestinian question" were cited by the source as the reason for the postponement.

"The meeting in Aden will be a turning point in the PLO history in view of discordant attitudes toward Palestinian, Arab and international issues, according to the source who declined to be identified.

The source did not elaborate on those differences but in the meantime it is understood that the Palestinian circles associate the postponement with the recent Tripoli statement by a number of PLO factions rejecting both Arab and American peace plans as well as the potential Palestinian-Jordanian confederation.

On the other hand, some Palestinian resistance factions have also criticised 'Arafat's meeting with three members of an Israeli opposition movement.

The Tripoli meeting last week issued a lengthy statement in which the Palestinian circles saw some criticism of Yasir 'Arafat. The Libyan-sponsored meeting grouped the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Popular Front (the General Command), the Popular Struggle Front and the pro-Syrian As-Sa'iqah organization.

The final statement of the meeting rejected the Arab peace plan which was endorsed at Fes summit by the Arab leaders including 'Arafat.

Leaders of the Palestinian factions and members of the PLO Executive Committee are expected to leave for Aden in the coming few hours for the PLO Executive Committee meeting tomorrow.

Meanwhile, PLO official spokesman 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar told KUNA that Aden's session "will be the most important of the Palestinian leadership meetings in view of the importance of the Palestinian, Arab and international issues to be discussed."

The session will finalize a political statement proposed by a Palestinian committee on preparation for the upcoming session of the NPC (parliament in exile), Abu Mayzar added.

The committee, headed by PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum, groups representatives from the eight PLO factions.

The proposed statement, a copy of which was obtained by KUNA, involves "unified Palestinian arena."

Key points in the proposed statement involve an acceptance of confederation with Jordan following the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, the rejection of the U.S. President Ronald Reagan Middle East peace plan and opposition to any relations with Egypt as long as Cairo is bound to the Camp David accords with Israel.

The committee which formulated the statement considers its points "the minimum level could be reached to preserve the Palestinian national unity through this critical phase of the Palestinian struggle."

The committee has set the "basic rules" which will govern the PLO relations with the Arab countries. According to the statement which specified the rules as commitment to questions of Arab struggle foremost of which, the Palestinian question. [sentence as received]

Other basics involve adherence to the rights of the Palestinian people including the right to return to homeland, self-determination and an independent state under the PLO leadership, the statement said.

The unity of the Palestinian representation (by the PLO), respect for the independent Palestinian resolution and rejection of the Camp David accords are other key rules, the statement went on.

On the U.S. peace formula, the statement said its essence and approach do not provide for the inalienable Palestinian rights and do not constitute an acceptable solution to the Palestinian question and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The statement highlighted the importance of "strategic relations between the PLO and Syria" and called for embarkin on negotiations between the PLO and the Lebanese Government "to ensure the safet- d security of Palestinians residing in Lebanon and guarantee their rights of political and social activity in addition to the PLO right to operate in Lebanon".

The statement viewed the resolutions of the Arab summit conference in Fes last September as "the minimal degree for Arab political activity" and underlined that "the military option with all its requirements should not be dropped."

The statement also called for developing ties between the PLO and the Soviet Union toward reaching a just settlement for the Middle East crisis through an international conference.

It also urged the PLO to step up its political activity with Western European countries and Japan so that these nations develop their stands towards the Palestinian question.

OPEC SESSION ENDS WITHOUT PRODUCTION AGREEMENT

KUNA on Disagreements

LD241330 Kuwait KUNA in English 1046 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Text] Geneva, Jan 24 (KUNA) -- Oil ministers of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries went into a second day of crisis talks here Monday seeking to finalize a package agreement on overall production and individual quotas.

The ministers, attempting to find an accord to maintain the OPEC reference price of 34 dollars a barrel (b/d), [as received] have reached a tentative agreement on a production ceiling of between 17 and 17.5 million b/d, and drawn up a list of quotas for the 13 member countries.

But the central disagreement focused on price differentials, with the Gulf states wanting a realignment on North African rates. Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states were pressing for a reported 3.7 dollar difference between the reference price and North African premium crude prices, conference sources said.

However, all three North African states -- Libya, Algeria and Nigeria -- resisted such a move on Sunday. Some North African producers have upset the Gulf members by undercutting official prices.

It was considered a possibility here that if no solution was found on differentials, Gulf states might reduce their prices to settle the issue. They have warned that the Geneva talks are a last chance.

Iranian and Venezuelan officials announced late Sunday that an agreement was virtually complete on a production ceiling and quotas. However, OPEC Secretary-General Marc Nan Nguema cautioned that problems still remained.

The outline agreement reached Sunday on overall production [word indistinct] up [words indistinct] 1.5 million b/d less than was agreed a month ago in Vienna, to take account of present low demand for OPEC oil during what should be a peak period and an expected seasonal fall in the spring.

Coupled with this, the Geneva conference has drawn up a quota system under which Saudi Arabia would accept a level of 4.5 to 5.0 million b/d compared with its previous level of 7.0 million b/d.

The Saudis are, however, believed to be producing below 5.0 million b/d and possibly as low as 4.1 million b/d in recent days after protests by its American partners in Aramco at the high official level of Saudi oil.

In exchange for the large Saudi reduction, Iran would accept 2.5 million b/d instead of its claimed output of 3.2 million.

Libya, which has been producing at about 1.5 million b/d, would come down to 1.2 million b/d, still well above its previous quota of 750,000.

Iranian Oil Minister Mohammad Gharazi announced the agreement late Sunday as "a victory for OPEC", but it was still not clear early Monday whether OPEC would obtain an overall agreement.

An accord in Geneva is considered vital to prevent a further fall in prices. Above all, an effective quota system was badly needed to offset the world oil glut.

Venezuela, which has serious economic difficulties and has been exceeding its quotas, like Iran, Libya and Nigeria, would be prepared to come down to 1.7 to 1.8 million b/d from its current output of 2.1 million, Venezuelan officials said.

Yamani Calls Meeting 'Failure'

LD241651 Kuwait KUNA in English 1600 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Text] Geneva, Jan 24 (KUNA) -- The emergency meeting of OPEC countries ended here Monday without a solid agreement on a production cut or on production quotas for the 13 members.

Ministers at the crucial conference agreed informally to set a lower production ceiling of 17.5 million barrels a day -- one million lower than the level fixed in Vienna last month -- but the talks collapsed over the question of price differentials for the African light crudes produced by Nigeria, Libya and Algeria, in a clash with Arab Gulf states.

The Saudi oil minister, Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, described the Geneva conference as a "complete failure".

OPEC President Malam Yahaya Dikko, chief Nigerian delegate, said 11 countries including Iran, Libya and Venezuela had accepted a Nigerian proposal for production quotas but Saudi Arabia and Kuwait had not agreed.

Backed by the U.A.E. and Qatar, the Gulf members argued for increased differentials for lighter African crudes, Dikko said, citing a figure of 3.8 dollars a barrel.

The four Gulf states refused to put off discussion of differentials until a later meeting, causing the conference to fold without being upgraded to extraordinary status in order to adopt any decisions.

"We failed to reach agreement, not on the level of production or quotas but on differentials," Dikko said. He claimed the Gulf decision to discuss differentials has taken other OPEC members by surprise.

Dikko insisted all 13 member countries remained committed to OPEC, and hoped it would reach agreement "in the near future" to protect its interests.

However, the inability of OPEC to agree here, in the face of the low demand for OPEC oil, posed serious questions about OPEC's future, analysts said.

Kuwait's oil minister, Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah, insisted that any agreement had to include three things -- an end to price discounting, suitable price differentials and a production programme.

Kuwait would respect the 34 dollar reference price, hoping that other countries would do the same, Shaykh 'Ali said. If other OPEC members failed to respect the price "it is only natural that we protect our interests," he said. Kuwait's patience was "very low," he added.

Trying to defend the reference price depended on agreement on the three main issues. If present practices such as discounting and failure to respect OPEC decisions continued, Kuwait would have to take measures, he warned, "we will feel forced to protect the interest of our own country first".

The only way to protect OPEC was to resolve discounting and differentials as well as fixing production quotas, he said.

Gharazi Calls Meeting 'Victory'

NC241450 Paris AFP in English 1424 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Text] Geneva, Jan 24 (AFP) -- Iran's Oil Minister Mohammad Gharazi today affirmed that Saudi Arabia "has lost its major role" inside the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

He said that Saudi Arabia had been compelled to reduce production to about 4.5 million barrels a day -- compared with its previous official production ceiling of 7 mbd announced last March -- as a result of "the political strength of Iran."

"Any reduction of Saudi Arabian production added to our own production is a victory," he told press after the end of the two-day conference here of OPEC oil ministers.

Mr Gharazi said that the problem of differential premiums -- a higher selling price for African than Gulf region light crudes -- was "not so important." This issue had been "invented to cause the failure of the conference," he added.

He said Saudi Arabia could not decide on its own a cut in OPEC's reference price of 34 dollars a barrel for the Saudis' own Arabian light quality.

He added that the Saudis should know that any price reduction would affect their own finances. Saudi Arabia "will not have the financial capacity to help Satan any more," he affirmed. In Iranian revolutionary parlance "Satan" stands for the United States.

Qatari Minister Comments

GF241922 Doha Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Excerpt] Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari finance and oil minister, has announced that the OPEC consultative ministerial meeting has failed to reach any agreement on any of the issues under discussion.

His excellency noted in particular the issue of qualitative differentials and quotas and the disagreement on reductions some countries give on their oil, a thing which gives other countries the freedom to do whatever they like to protect their interests and preserve their rights in the market.

OMAN

JORDAN'S HUSAYN PAYS 2-DAY VISIT TO MUSCAT

Report on Arrival

GF231118 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0920 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] Muscat, 23 Jan (WAKH) -- King Husayn of Jordan today arrived in Muscat on a 2-day official visit to the Sultanate of Oman. During the visit to Jordanian monarch will hold talks with Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman dealing with the results of the visits he undertook while leading the delegation of the Arab seven-member committee to the Soviet Union, the PRC, and France, in addition to the results of his talks in the United States.

Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman welcomed the Jordanian monarch at the airport. A number of senior Omani officials were also present.

Meeting With Qabus

GF231651 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus and his brother His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal of fraternal Jordan held a round of talks at the Guest Palace in Al-Hisn at 1600 today.

The talks were attended on the Jordanian side by Mudar Badran, prime minister; Ahmad al-Lawzi, chief of the Royal Court; 'Amir Khammash, Royal Court minister; and Riyad Sabri, Jordanian ambassador to the Sultanate. They were attended on the Omani side by Shaykh ibn Shahab, sultan's adviser and Muscat governor; Hamad ibn Hamud, minister of the Sultani court affairs; and 'Abdallah Sa'id, Omani ambassador to Jordan.

After the talks, Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, made a statement to radio and television correspondent in which he said: This evening emphasis was placed on the discussion of current Arab issues, various developments of these issues, and steps which are to be taken in the future. His excellency added: Views were identical on future moves in the international arena to reach a peaceful settlement for the Middle East issue based on the liberation of Arab territories from Isralei occupation and the return of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. The Lebanese issue was also discussed and the two sides emphasized the need to withdraw all foreign troops from its territory and to (?establish) an independent state over the entire territory.

Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, added that during the talks the Iraqi-Iranian war was also discussed with its current developments and the initiatives proposed on various levels to end this war through peaceful means. (?They also called on Iran) to respond to these initiatives (?to end the dispute) between the two countries.

Departure for Jordan

GF240949 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0805 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Text] Muscat, 24 Jan (WAKH) -- King Husayn, monarch of Jordan, ended his tour of the Gulf and left Muscat for home this morning. He was seen off by Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, sultan of Oman, and senior Omani officials.

During his tour, King Husayn briefed the leaders of the region's countries on the results of the Arab seven-member committee's visits to the UN Security Council's permanent member-countries to explain the Arab peace plan. The king also reviewed with the region's leaders a number of issues of concern to the Arab world.

GOVERNMENT LIFTS STATE OF EMERGENCY FROM COSMOS

GF241434 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Statement No 7 issued by the Council for the Protection of the Environment and Combating of Pollution, date not given -- read by announcer]

[Excerpt] It pleases the Council for the Protection of Environment and Combating of Pollution to announce to the honorable citizens that according to information received by the council from reliable sources, parts of the Soviet satellite Cosmos 1402 have fallen in the Indian Ocean 1,800 km southeast of the island of Diego Garcia. Accordingly, the council has decided to lift the state of maximum emergency and consider the state of danger over.

PDRY

'ARAFAT ARRIVES IN ADEN, MAKES STATEMENT

GF231750 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] Brother Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, arrived in Aden this evening on a visit to the PDRY that will last for several days. He was received on arrival by Brigadier General 'Ali Ahmad Nasir 'Antar, member of the Political Bureau, vice chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and first vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; a number of members of the Political Bureau and Central Committee; ministers; the PLO representative in Aden; and a number of ambassadors accredited to our country.

In a statement on arrival, Brother 'Arafat expressed his satisfaction over his visit to the PDRY. He said during his visit he will meet with Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, and brother officials to discuss many issues, foremost of which are current developments in the region, particularly after the Israeli military moves and the Israeli threats to the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples in Al-Biqa' and Tripoli and in view of the new developments in the Arab region.

He added: At the same time, there will be a meeting of the PLO Executive Committee in Aden in addition to the celebrations for which our brothers in the PDRY opened their warm hearts and strong revolutionary arms, embracing the revolutionary Palestinians. I also hope that by attending the meetings of the Arab solidarity committees we will achieve more successes.

In reply to a question on the hijacking attempt against the Al Yemda airplane by suspected elements who have infiltrated the Palestinian revolution, Brother Yasir 'Arafat said: We cannot say that they are only infiltrators, but we can say they have nothing to do with the Palestinian revolution. It is part of the suffering of the Palestinian revolution that these infiltrating elements always try to undermine not only the Palestinian revolution, but the whole Arab march. Thank God, the motives and parties behind them have been exposed and it has been proved that they have nothing to do with the Palestinian side.

Meets With Chairman

GF240802 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Excerpts] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, met tonight with Brother Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution. During the meeting the two leaders reviewed developments in the Middle East, the stand on the Palestinian issue, steps taken by the Palestinian leadership in order to bolster Palestinian national unity, and the Arab stand that should be adopted in order to confront collusive and traitorous stands adopted by reactionary circles to support the imperialist-Zionist plot in the Arab region.

Also discussed in the meeting were arrangements and preparations made for holding the main celebrations for the 18th anniversary of the Palestinian revolution.

The meeting was attended by a number of brother members of the Political Bureau and the YSP Central Committee.

CHAIRMAN RECEIVES PFLP-GC'S AHMAD JIBRIL

GF230648 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 0330 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium and chairman of the Council of Ministers, received yesterday Brother Ahmad Jibril, the secretary general of the Popular Front [for the Liberation of Palestine]-General Command. [PFLP-GC].

During the meeting, they reviewed developments in the Palestinian and Arab arenas in addition to means of bolstering the struggling relations between the Palestinian and Yemeni revolutions. The PDRY brother secretary general reaffirmed the continuation of the support and backing of the PDRY party, people, and government to the just struggle of the Palestinian people under the PLO, their sole legitimate representative, in face of the conspiratorial plots and aggressive challenges to which they are subjected. He also stressed the need to reinforce the Palestinian national unity, which is opposed to the capitulationist and liquidationist plans imperialist and Zionist powers try to impose in order to obliterate the issue of the Palestinian people.

Brother Ahmad Jibril praised the principled and constant stance of the PDRY which sides with the Palestinian revolution where this reflects the unity and cohesion of the Yemeni and Palestinian peoples against the imperialist-Zionist alliance.

The meeting was attended by Brother Salih Munassar as-Silaym, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of State Security, and Brother Abu 'Adnan, the representative of the Popular Front-General Command.

Jibril Departs

GF241746 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Excerpts] Brother Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the PFLP-GC, left Aden today after a visit to the PDRY from 19 to 24 January at an invitation from the YSP Central Committee.

Following the visit, a press statement was issued expressing satisfaction over the level of relations between the YSP and the PFLP-GC. The two sides emphasized the need of furthering and strengthening these relations to serve the common struggle of the two fraternal Yemeni and Palestinian peoples.

The statement noted that during the talks the two sides reviewed the developments in the Arab region, especially the Palestinian issue and the current and future task of foiling various imperialist-Zionist-reactionary plots intended to liquidate it. They also affirmed the need to enhance Palestinian national unity within the PLO to continue the Arab Palestinian people's struggle for liberation. They emphasized the need for unilateral representation of the Arab Palestinian people by the PLO, their sole legitimate representative, and not authorizing any other representative at any time.

In their statement, the two sides expressed the need to strictly adhere to the National Charter, the Palestinian revolution's current program and the PNC resolutions, which affirm the Arab Palestinian people's right to return, to self-determination, and to establish their independent state on their national soil under the PLO. The two sides reiterated their condemnation of Camp David, Reagan's plan, and various plans aimed at liquidating the Palestinian cause which contravene the PLO's charter and the resolutions of its national councils.

The two sides affirmed the need to consolidate the struggle alliance among the PLO, Syria, and various nationalist Arabs in the common struggle against imperialism, Zionism, and reaction to confront all their annihilatory conspiracies and to consolidate the position and the role of the Palestinian revolution, Syria, and all Arab liberation forces and their nationalist regimes in countering the imperialist attack on the Arab region.

The two sides affirmed the need to develop and expand the friendship and alliance with the socialist bloc, led by the Soviet Union, which always advocates our Palestinian people's just cause and the struggle of our Arab peoples for their liberation, social progress, and democratic unity.

The PFLP-GC delegation expressed its appreciation for and pride in the development the PDRY is undergoing in various fields under the YSP. It also highly evaluated the principled stand of the PDRY -- people, party, and government -- toward the Palestinian people and its role in unifying the struggle of various factions of Arab national liberation movement in confronting the imperialist attack and its various forms in the Arab region.

The PFLP-GC delegation expressed its great satisfaction over the outcome of its visit to the PDRY and the warm hospitality it received during this visit.

MENA EXCERPTS HUSNI MUBARAK TIME INTERVIEW

NC242132 Cairo MENA in English 2109 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Text] New York, Jan 24 (MENA) -- TIME Cairo bureau chief Robert C. Wurmstedt said President Mubarak expressed confidence that life would gradually improve for his country's people. Excerpts from TIME of the interview:

[Question] What will you tell President Reagan about the prospects for a peace settlement in the Near East?

[Answer] We support the Reagan initiative. It is the only thing we can use to push the peace process forward, because nearly all the strings are in the hands of the U.S. Only the U.S. has the power, the influence, the authority to put a peace initiative into action, especially with its close relationship with Israel. The U.S. must help stop these new Israeli settlements in the West Bank. If these settlements continue what will be left to negotiate in a year's time? How then will we solve the Palestinians problem?

[Question] What advice have you given to King Husayn of Jordan and Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir 'Arafat?

[Answer] King Husayn should sit down with the Arab leaders and find a way to allow the Palestinians to join the negotiations. He should get the approval of the Arabs and go ahead. I advised 'Arafat to recognize Israel unilaterally. The Arabs must move faster so that we can benefit from the Reagan initiative. To be slow now is dangerous. The Israelis will not stop building these settlements in the West Bank. Also, the U.S. presidential elections are coming, and then all decisions in the U.S. will be paralyzed. If we wait until the elections are over, I am afraid everything will be liquidated.

[Question] What role do you see for President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria?

[Answer] The Syrians don't want to reach any conclusions. They don't want the Reagan initiative implemented. They don't want any solution to the Palestinian problem because they are benefiting in many ways from the state of no war and no peace.

[Question] What is, in your view Israel's strategy in Lebanon?

[Answer] Israel's strategy may be to delay implementation of the Reagan initiative until a year passes, and then it would be very difficult to implement it but I have heard from the Israelis several times that they are going to withdraw from Lebanon and that they have no interest in staying there.

[Question] What is the current state of relations between Egypt and Israel?

[Answer] Recalling our ambassador in Israel after the Beirut massacre was the least we could do in such a situation. We will deal with Israel as with any other country.

[Question] What is the chance of good relations between Israel and the Arab states?

[Answer] If the Israelis think deeply and wisely, they could live in peace with other Arab countries. If they are practical, they will find a way to solve the Palestinian problem. If the Palestinians are given their rights and Israel stops being obstinate, the Israeli people will have much to gain.

[Question] President as-Sadat expelled the Soviet ambassador in 1981. What is the future of Egyptian relations with the Soviet Union?

[Answer] We have no interest in neglecting the Soviet Union. The time will come, maybe in a year or less, when we will exchange ambassadors. But this will not affect our special relations with the U.S. Take India, for example, India has special relations with the Soviets, yet it also has normal relations with the U.S.

[Question] What kind of additional aid do you want from the U.S.?

[Answer] The U.S. is doing the maximum in the area of military aid now. But we must strengthen our armed forces, especially our air defenses, with missile systems and fighter planes. We don't know what is going to happen on our western border with Libya, and the Iran-Iraq war is a problem for the whole area. On economic aid, we would like "much flexibility" (as the Israelis have with U.S. aid) in how we use it.

[Question] How do you account for the growth of Muslim fundamentalism in Egypt?

[Answer] Economic problems may be part of the reason for it here, but it is a trend all over the Muslim world. In Egypt we know exactly how to tackle this problem. We are explaining to all the people what Islam is and the difference between the extremists view and the real Islam. Islam is something good.

[Question] How can you reduce subsidies of food and fuel prices, which consume so much of the government budget?

[Answer] The subsidies program is a sensitive issue because it touches the standard of living of the people. We are going to find a way, perhaps by next year. But we have to be very careful.

[Question] How would you describe your essential style of leadership?

[Answer] In Egypt the people have been used to electric shock, but that time has passed. I could give the people very good speeches, but I am not that type of man. I like to work quietly. The people want to eat, they want housing and water. I could easily provide some kind of anesthesia for the people, but I am a man for long-term policies, not for electric shocks.

MUBARAK MEETS NDP YOUTHS 23 JANUARY

NC231742 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Statement by Minister of State for Information Shafwat ash-Sharif following meeting by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak with NDP youths at a training course in As-Salam City on 23 January -- recorded]

[Excerpts] His excellency the president today met with about 200 NDP youths attending the training course for university students representing 23 Egyptian governorates. Despite his engagements, his excellency was eager to meet with the youths prior to his departure for the United States and a number of European countries.

At the outset of the meeting, the president said that he was very pleased to meet with his sons, the university youths. The youths are the hope for the future and the hope of Egypt, particularly the university youths.

At the beginning of the meeting, the president said: Egypt is now going through a difficult period. We have major problems which are beyond human capabilities. I have previously often explained that the economic problem is the cornerstone, besides the problems of the infrastructure which affect every one of our citizens and all our sons.

The president said: The problem is enormous but we shall never despair. Despair befalls only those who have a weak will. Thank God, we have a strong will on all levels. Therefore, we shall exert and are exerting every effort.

The 1,000-mile march always begins with the first step but also with determination, work, and efforts. We have a 5-year plan which has plans for solutions and puts the state on the right course. We are now on the path of correcting the economic course.

The president also said: Making a mere economic decision is difficult because such a decision must be linked to social reality. A mere decision for correcting the economy is difficult to carry out because such a decision must be linked to social reality and the circumstances of the citizens. For this reason, the phases [for correcting the economy] will take time so that the masses do not go on suffering.

The basis of his excellency's trip to the United States will be the correction of the economic course and participation in bolstering the infrastructure and infrastructure projects.

The youths addressed numerous frank and clear questions to the president on Egypt's foreign policy. On Arab relations, the president said: We appreciate the nature of our Arab brothers and the circumstances of every fraternal Arab state. Egypt too has its own nature and its special policy in its dealings, throughout history, by virtue of its location and leadership. Our relations are based on respect, and relations and contacts exist with our fraternal Arabs.

The president also said that Egypt's peace initiative has had an effect in raising, propagandizing, and putting the Palestinian issue before world public opinion. To other questions on Arab and Israeli relations, the president said that the Israeli aggression against Lebanon has clarified many facts and uncovered Arab stands on the land of Lebanon. The Syrian stand is clear and needs no interpretations. The president then reviewed the situation with regard to the Lebanese problem and Israel's and Syria's endeavors to partition Lebanon. The president said that Egypt's policy has been clear. It declared: Take your hands off Lebanon. Egypt's policy is still clear. It calls for the unity of the Lebanese soil and the withdrawal of all the foreign forces from Lebanon. The president said that the understanding and moderate Arabs and Palestinians must take advantage of the available opportunity and unite their efforts.

The president also told the youths: Egyptian nationalism is a basis which governs our relations with the West and the East. Egypt is subject to nobody even if we starve. Egypt never bows nor allows anybody to interfere in its affairs. We are a nonaligned state but we have special relations with the United States based on mutual respect and fruitful cooperation.

On the president's visit to the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, and France, the president said that the purpose of the visit is to give momentum to the peace process and to reach an understanding on the area's issues and our main issues. Regarding the U.S. aid, [the president will ask that] there should be more flexibility and more aid for the infrastructure and for implementing projects and industries to solve the people's daily problems.

BETHLEHEM MAYOR ARRIVES, MAKES STATEMENT

NC241457 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jan (MENA) -- Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj arrived in Cairo at noon today from Amman for a 2-week visit to Egypt. Upon his arrival, the Bethlehem mayor said that this is his first visit to the Nile Valley. He expressed his hope of meeting with President Husni Mubarak, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, and Egyptian officials to brief them on the reality of the inhabitants and the political situation in the occupied territories.

He said: I believe that the Egyptian policy that emerged after 1977 challenging Israel with peace has borne fruit with the liberation of Sinai. I hope that the Arabs, particularly the Jordanians and Palestinians, will move in the same way to break the deadlock because, without political negotiations, there can be no political movement or a change in the conditions from which our Arab people are suffering under occupation.

Replying to a question on his participation in a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the expanded talks, Ilyas Frayj said that this subject has not yet been put to him officially, but that should it be suggested to him, the answer will be in the affirmative.

Replying to another question as to whether he had met with Jordanian King Husayn before his visit to Cairo, Frayj said that he arrived in Jordan yesterday and that he did not meet with the Jordanian monarch, because he was not in Amman. He said that he will meet with King Husayn at the conclusion of his visit to Egypt. The Bethlehem mayor concluded his statement by thanking Kamal Hasan 'Ali for having invited him and his wife to visit Egypt.

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD'S AD-DA'WAH REOPENS

WA241250 Cairo AN-NUR in Arabic 12 Jan 83 p 1

[Excerpt] On Monday the magazine AD-DA'WAH [monthly organ of the Muslim Brotherhood] reopened its doors by court order after having been closed and having had publication suspended for more than 16 months following the September 1981 events.

The editorial staff of the magazine said a prayer of thanks to God after removing the red wax over the door and entering the premises. AD-DA'WAH's editor in chief, 'Umar at-Talmasani, stated that its editorial staff will make a great effort to publish the next issue, with God's help, within a month, that is, pending approval of the decision of the Council of State on resumption of its publication. Professor at-Talmasani added that the magazine will appear in the same format as prior to its closing. He also stated: We ask God to see that we pursue our legitimate activity under the sovereignty of the law and that He guide us all in doing good.

TALKS UNDERWAY ON PLO HEADQUARTERS TRANSFER

GF241729 Manama AKBAR AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 24 Jan 83 p 1

[Correspondent's dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] Well-informed sources in Cairo have noted that important contacts are currently underway between Palestinian and Egyptian officials with the aim of transferring the PLO headquarters and leadership to Cairo. These contacts are being conducted by PLO representative in Cairo Ahmad Sidqi ad-Dajani and other Palestinian leaders who arrived secretly for this objective, following the strain in the PLO-Damascus relations and the outbreak of fighting in Tripoli between the pro-Syrian and anti-Syrian elements.

SYRIAN, LIBYAN 'COLLUSION' WITH IRAN CONDEMNED

JN241244 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1128 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Jan (INA) -- An official Iraqi spokesman has condemned the collusion of the two agent regimes of Syria and Libya with the Tehran rulers, the enemies of the Arab nation, who are practicing aggression against Iraq, threatening its sovereignty, security, and future and threatening the sovereignty, security, and future of the Arab nation.

The spokesman called on the Arab League to shoulder its responsibilities in accordance with its charter and condemn and denounce this collusion, which appeared in the joint statement released by official representatives of the Syrian, Libyan, and Iranian regimes. The following is the text of the statement:

An official spokesman has stated the following:

On 23 January 1983, via the official Syrian mass media, a joint statement was released by official representatives of the Syrian, Libyan, and Tehran regimes. The statement, resorting to the method for which these suspect regimes are known, dealt with vital issues related to the Arab nation's fate. The statement contained in particular a shameful attitude toward our struggler country and directly called out for intervening in Iraq's domestic affairs, threatening its sovereignty and security.

The statement officially exposes and confirms the real collusion of the Syrian and Libyan regimes with the enemies of the Arab nation, the Tehran rulers, who are practicing aggression against Iraq, threatening its sovereignty, security, and future as well as the sovereignty, security, and future of the Arab nation. This statement is a blatant and clear-cut declaration by these two regimes regarding their conspiratorial relations with the Tehran regime. These two regimes tried to deny or to conceal the evil objectives of these relations when they were confronted directly or during Arab meetings.

Strong and lofty Iraq, while disdaining these petty plotters, who met in Damascus, is well aware of the fact that they are only a group of traitors who have been renounced by the Arab nation and history and who have become gangs detested by their peoples who impatiently aspire for the day of salvation to be rid of their charlatanism, black magic, corruption, and oppression. Iraq, however, would like with all its strength to draw the attention of the Arab official and popular public opinion to the blatant violation these two regimes have committed against the basic rules of Arab solidarity, the Arab joint defense pact, the principles of Arabism and all bases that regulate relations among the Arab countries.

Iraq, stemming from the principle of keenness on pan-Arab relations in the first place, sees it necessary for the Arab governments to adopt a frank attitude toward this abnormal act. Iraq hopes that the Arab League will shoulder its responsibilities in accordance with its charter, will condemn and denounce this act, and will take the appropriate practical measures against the Syrian and Libyan regimes.

Adopting such an attitude would not show bias toward Iraq, although biased attitudes toward an Arab state in a just issue is legitimate, or rather it is a required pan-Arab attitude. This is because the behavior of the Syrian and Libyan regimes is not only an act directed against Iraq but also directed against the Arab nation and seriously threatens the bases of inter-Arab relations.

We are confident that this disgraceful attitude adopted by the Syrian and Libyan rulers will only bring them further shame. The alliance with the Tehran rulers, who attack the Arab nation, covet its land, are allied with the Zionist enemy, and distract Iraq from performing its pan-Arab duties, is flagrant treason to be added to the long list of treasons committed by these two renounced regimes. The misleading statements by these two regimes and their ally, the Tehran regime, on Palestine cannot deceive the Arab masses and the region's peoples, who have exposed their collusion with the Zionist enemy in Lebanon and exposed their involvement in the Zionist partition plans. The meeting among the ruling gangs in Iran, Syria, and Libya is merely a desperate attempt to cover their disgraceful scandals and to protect their collapsed positions.

TARIQ 'AZIZ REPLACES HAMMADI AS FOREIGN MINISTER

JN241225 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Jan 83

["Text" of Revolution Command Council's decree on 24 January]

[Text] In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph A of Article (?48) of the provisional constitution, the Revolution Command Council [RCC], at its session on 24 January 1983, decided the following:

1. Dr Sa'dun Hammadi shall be relieved of his post as the foreign minister, and shall be appointed as minister of state at the presidential office.

2. Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister, shall be appointed as the foreign minister.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, RCC chairman

Hammadi 'Under Treatment'

JN241753 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1720 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister, was appointed today as foreign minister to replace Dr Sa'dun Hammadi. The causes for this change have not yet been disclosed but it is believed that the matter has something to do with Dr Sa'dun Hammadi's health, as he has been under treatment abroad for the past 2 months. The nature of his illness is not known.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUE NO 972

JN211732 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Jan 83

[Communique No 972 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 21 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces are continuing their daring operations against the forces of the spiteful Iranian regime of Khomeyni, who insists on committing evil acts of aggression. The results for last night and today are as follows:

1. Since this morning, the eagles of our Air Force have been carrying out intensive, violent raids against enemy positions and armor concentrations in the areas opposite our forward positions in the Maysan sector and deep inside enemy territory in the southern sector of the front. Our Air Force scored direct and effective hits and inflicted heavy human and material losses. At 1330 today, during a dogfight with enemy aircraft, our Air Force shot down an enemy plane in the southern sector. The plane was seen exploding in the air and its pilot was seen parachuting over enemy territory. All our planes returned safely to base after carrying out their missions, praise be to God.

2. An enemy concentration was seen opposite our forward units in the area east of Basra. Our units attacked it with various weapons, killing four and destroying one observation post.

3. Our daring helicopters today attacked enemy positions and concentrations in the central and southern sectors of the front, scoring direct hits. All our helicopters returned safely to base.

4. One enemy soldier was killed in the central sector of the front.

5. The criminal Khomeyniite clique today shelled Mandali and Zurbatiyah with artillery, causing damage to civilian installations.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 21 January 1983

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUE NO 973

JN221657 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Jan (INA) -- Iraqi fighter planes several times today attacked enemy concentrations in the Maysan operational sector, inflicting grave losses on its personnel and vehicles. The military communique issued this evening by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command affirmed that all the Iraqi fighter planes returned safely to base. The communique noted that a force from our forward units in the central sector the night before last raided enemy positions, killing 11, wounding others, and destroying 1 gun and 1 observation post. The communique added that four enemy personnel were killed and one vehicle and one observation post destroyed in the area east of Basra and in the northern operational sector. The communique explained that the enemy today shelled Khanaqin, killing a woman, wounding four children and damaging some civilian installations in the town. It warned the Iranian enemy against continuing its criminal acts and its shelling of Iraqi civilian establishments. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 973 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our brave armed forces continued their operations against the forces of the aggressor Khomeyniite clique and its expansionist trends. The results for last night and today are as follows:

1. A force from our forward units the night before last raided enemy positions in the central sector and clashed with enemy personnel. Our force valiantly managed to kill 11 enemy personnel, wound others, and destroy 1 gun and 1 observation post.

2. Our able fighter planes several times today attacked enemy concentrations in the Maysan operational sector, inflicting grave losses on its personnel and vehicles. All of our planes returned safely to base.

3. Two were killed and one vehicle and one observation post destroyed in the area east of Basra.

4. Two were killed in the northern sector.

5. The Iranian regime today committed a horrendous crime to be added to its many others when it shelled Khanaqin, killing one woman, wounding four children, and damaging civilian establishments. We warn this criminal regime against continuing such criminal acts and against its continuous shelling of our towns and civilian establishments. God is great and victory is ours.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 22 January 1983

KING HUSAYN, QUEEN NUR TO VISIT BELGIUM 26 JAN

JN241952 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Text] A responsible source at the Royal Hashemite Court has stated that, at the invitation of Their Majesties Belgian King Baudouin I and Queen Fabiola, Their Majesties King Husayn and Queen Nur will pay an official 3-day visit to Belgium on 26 January, during which His Majesty King Husayn will hold talks with the Belgian king, the prime minister, and ranking Belgian officials. His majesty will be accompanied by an official delegation comprising several ranking officials.

KING HUSAYN RETURNS FROM GULF TOUR 24 JAN

JN241345 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn returned to the homeland from Oman this afternoon at the end of an Arab tour which also took him to Kuwait, Qatar, and Bahrain. His majesty was received by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the Bahraini heir apparent, who is currently on a visit to Jordan; Sulayman 'Arar, speaker of the National Consultative Council; Lieutenant General ash-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces; ministers; heads of the diplomatic mission of the countries visited by His Majesty King Husayn; and ranking state and military officials. His Highness Prince Faysal, Prime Minister Mudar Badran; Ahmad al-Lawzi, chief of the Hashemite Court; and Court Minister 'Amir Khammash returned with his majesty.

SOVIET FRIENDSHIP DELEGATION CONCLUDES VISIT

Sees Abu 'Awdah

JN231326 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] -- 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, acting prime minister and information minister, received in his office this morning the delegation of the Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries which is currently visiting Jordan. During the meeting, both sides reviewed the longstanding relations of friendship between Jordan and the USSR and the importance of the mutual visits by officials of the two countries to strengthen the friendship ties between them.

Abu 'Awdah praised the USSR-Jordanian relations and their development in the various fields.

Dr Rif'at 'Awdah, chairman of the Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Society attended the meeting.

Signs Agreement

JN240948 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 24 Jan 83 p 20

[Excerpt] A second agreement was signed yesterday in Amman between the Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Society, the Union of the Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries, and the Soviet-Jordanian Friendship Society. Dr Rif'at 'Awdah, chairman of the Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Society, signed the agreement for the Jordanian side while Dr Aleksey Safonov, chairman of the Soviet-Jordanian Friendship Society and deputy minister of health in the USSR, signed it for the Soviet side.

According to the agreement, the two sides agreed to send 25 Jordanian students on scholarship grants to Soviet institutes and universities in addition to 9 scholarship grants for higher studies in the fields of medicine and technology. They also agreed to send five persons every year for treatment in USSR hospitals. The agreement also stipulates that the friendship societies in Amman and Moscow will celebrate national days and occasions in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the USSR, to acquaint the two peoples with each other by holding exhibitions, seminars, and conferences in the capitals of the two countries and to exchange delegations and art teams. The Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Society will host in Amman this year a delegation of the Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and of the Uzbek SSR Friendship Society for 10 days. It will also host a 20-member art team for 8 days and a lecturer to talk about health care and medical achievements in the USSR for another 8 days.

The agreement highlights the cultural and scientific cooperation which exists between Jordan and the USSR and the relations of friendship which are based on mutual respect between the two countries. The agreement also calls for promoting these relations in the interest of the two countries and peoples.

After signing the agreement, Dr Rif'at 'Awdah delivered a speech in which he said: It is a source of satisfaction and happiness to see that the good relations between the two friendship societies in Amman and Moscow have been promoted during the years which followed the foundation of the friendship society in 1968.

Departs 24 Jan

JN242141 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Excerpts] The delegation of the Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries left Amman this afternoon following a visit of several days to Jordan. The head of the delegation said that his visit to Jordan and the signing of an agreement of cultural cooperation and exchange are considered an advanced step on the path of further promoting and bolstering bilateral friendship and cooperation. He spoke highly of the meetings he had held with Jordanian officials and the benefit gained from an exchange of viewpoints on all issues of common interest.

REPORTAGE ON 24 JAN NEGOTIATIONS AT KHALDAH

Talks Concentrate on Security

NC241309 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1218 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Excerpts] Dear listeners: We will now move to Khaldah where our team there will provide us with the details of today's negotiations. To Khaldah:

Despite the atmosphere of tension which preceded today's negotiations, particularly following the explosion near the Israeli blockade which was caused by, as military experts said, a 107-mm shell, the progress of the negotiations indicates the realization of certain steps. The Israeli side named its members to the subcommittees and these subcommittees held their first meeting.

It is noted that today's meeitng concentrated on the question of the security arrangements because of the great sensitivity it is causing, particularly in the light of U.S. support for Lebanon's stand of rejecting the operation of early warning stations by the Israeli army.

It is known that this point has caused tension in U.S.-Israeli relations. The differences on this point are no longer confined to the Lebanese and Israeli sides but have developed into a difference between Washington and Tel Aviv as well. Here, we point out that Lebanon has agreed that an international force should assume the supervision of these stations.

At any rate, it appears that the United States, which has thrown its weight into the negotiations and which seeks a solution to the Middle East crisis through President Reagan's plan, is not prepared to abandon its role.

Therefore, the coming days will witness mounting pressures in order to reach an agreement on some sort of arrangements acceptable to all sides.

On the periphery of the negotiations, Christopher Ross was seen engaged in a dialogue with a member of the Lebanese delegation. The U.S. delegation member was heard saying: I am in a cross fire. The Lebanese delegation member said: We do not have fires; we have snow.

The delegations are continuing their consultations at the luncheon table.

Ninth Round Ends

NC241500 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1450 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Dispatch by official delegation of Lebanese Ministry of Information in Khaldah in Arabic, French, and English; processed from English -- live]

[Text] At exactly quarter to five pm the U.S. spokesman for the U.S. delegation, Mr Christopher Ross, appeared before the press and read the following communique:

We discussed today general aspects of the policies of Lebanon and Israel and also raised, in the plenary session, the question of security arrangements. The newly formed subcommittees met today for the first time and started their work. The next meeting of the subcommittees will take place Tuesday or Wednesday, 25 or 26 January, and the meeting will take place in Israel. End of the communique.

Fattal on 24 Jan Round

NC242030 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan this evening chaired a meeting of the political operations room and the Lebanese negotiating team to assess the results of the discussions and the various stands and proposals.

An official source has pointed out that during the discussions at today's closed round of negotiations and the subcommittee meetings, difficult debates took place which demonstrated the extent of differences in viewpoints on basic matters as well as the extent of Lebanon's adherence to the principles on which Lebanon insists on acting.

The official source said that the session was held in a tense atmosphere because of the stands presented by the two sides. Lebanon had to restate its firm stand vis-a-vis the unacceptable Israeli proposals.

The head of the Lebanese delegation, Dr Antoine Fattal, spoke about the basis of the Lebanese stand. He wondered if it is Israel's intention to hold negotiations that will definitely lead to an inadequate [qasri] agreement because a number of the Israeli proposals discussed at Qiryat Shemona are unacceptable, be they in the sphere of security arrangements or within the context of future relations.

The head of the Lebanese delegation then dealt with the items on the agenda, focusing on the question of opening the borders and the establishment of early warning stations. He also raised all the Israeli demands, explaining how far one could go regarding them.

In his statement, Dr Fattal dealt with the international law principles on good relations and cooperation among states in accordance with the UN Charter. He proposed a signed protocol to be worked out by the three sides.

The official source said that today's debate took place in an atmosphere that has created something of a problem and questions whether the committees can continue their work. Despite this gloomy atmosphere, the committees met. Judge Antoine Barud, chairman of the guarantees committee, put forward a number of questions related to his work -- especially from the legal point -- and to the question of mutual guarantees because Lebanon demands from Israel specific guarantees, to which it adheres. The Israelis did not give an answer to the question of guarantees today, promising to provide the answer in due course.

The chairman of the withdrawals program committee, staff Brigadier General 'Abbas Hamdan, put forward Lebanon's stand on withdrawals, their program and circumstances, insisting on complete, comprehensive, and total withdrawal.

Chairman of the security arrangements committee staff Colonel Munir Ruhayyim presented the Lebanese stand on the question of security arrangements, which Lebanon is demanding from Israel so as to prevent any possible tampering with Lebanon's internal situation.

Pazner Sums Up Talks

TA241545 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1518 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Text] Today all the subcommittees convened. There was no real progress, and the subcommittees will reconvene tomorrow in Israel. Our correspondent in Lebanon, Alon Diskin, opens his report with the remarks by the spokesman for the Israeli delegation, Avi Pazner:

[Begin recording] [Pazner] Today the delegations discussed the general aspects of the Israeli and Lebanese positions, and raised the question of the security arrangements at the plenum. The new subcommittees that were established today have already met and begun their work. The next meeting of the subcommittees will be held either on Tuesday or Wednesday in Israel.

[Diskin] At the opening of the deliberations today the heads of the delegations again reviewed the positions of their countries toward the discussion of the security arrangements. The head of the Israeli delegation, David Kimche, emphasized that Israel is interested in having totally new relations with Lebanon. The armistice agreements no longer exist insofar as Israel is concerned. Israel totally rejects any debate of them. Mr Kimche added that security arrangements with Lebanon will not be worth anything without good-neighborly relations. It is necessary to avoid repetition of what happened in 1969, when the Arab countries dictated to Lebanon and turned it into a terrorist base.

This point, one should note, was even more poignantly emphasized today, as a katyusha was fired from Hayy as-Sullum or Al- Fakihani, both neighborhoods having been in the not-too-distant past terrorist strongholds.

Antoine Fattal, the head of the Lebanese delegation, opened the debate with a historical survey of the relations between Israel and Lebanon since 1949. He also discussed the developments since the Peace for Galilee Operation to date, and paid special attention to the impact of the 1969 Cairo agreements which established, in a semilegal manner, the terrorists' presence and operation from southern Lebanon against Israel.

This afternoon the heads of the delegations convened for preliminary deliberations, and later the plenum was given a report on these deliberations. No conclusion was reached today on the venue for the subcommittees' deliberations; it was only agreed that they would be held in Israel.

[Pazner] The exact place is not yet known. We are hoping that tomorrow, or at the latest the day after, they will hold their sessions. One way or the other, they will be held in Israel.

[Diskin] Would it be possible to say that some kind of progress was reached? If so, could you elaborate?

[Pazner] Look, each time meetings take place obviously some work is being done. Today, for example, all the subcommittees met and intensive deliberations were conducted this afternoon. However, naturally it is still premature to disclose results. These subcommittees will continue their work either tomorrow or the day after, as I said. [end recording]

Venue of Subcommittees Pending

NC251237 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] The subcommittees for the Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. talks did not meet today because of Israel's request to change the venue of meetings from Qiryat Shemona to Herzliyya and Lebanon's objection to that. It has been reiterated that the meetings would be moved to the coastal town of Nahariyya. An Israeli source today said the question of fixing the venue of these meetings has not been resolved but that it is a simple problem which must be resolved as soon as possible during the current consultations.

The subcommittees met in Khaldah yesterday along with the plenary session and will meet Thursday in Qiryat Shemona unless they meet tomorrow, Wednesday, if an agreement is reached on defining the venue in Israel.

President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil has chaired a meeting of the political committee of the higher liaison body in the presence of the ambassadors of the four participating states, the Lebanese and international officers team, and the coordinator of the multinational forces, Colonel Johnny 'Abduh.

Beirut Papers Comment

NC241612 Paris AFP in English 1554 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Excerpts] Beirut, Jan 24 (AFP) -- The ninth session of the tripartite talks on troop withdrawals from Lebanon ended today in Khaldah, 10 kms (six miles) south of here, as U.S. special envoy to the Middle East Philip Habib ended a 10-day trip to the area and left Jerusalem for Washington.

Today's Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. talks dealt "globally" with the Israeli and Lebanese positions, as well as with "security arrangments," a joint communique said.

In today's talks, Israeli delegation chief David Kimche asked for "security arrangements (and) good neighbourly relations" with Lebanon, Israeli spokesman Avi Pazner said.

Mr Kimche said the Israeli invasion of Lebanon was "not aimed at the Lebanese state or people, but against Palestine Liberation Organization terrorists who had created a state within a state and were threatening Israel's security," the spokesman reported.

But Lebanese newspapers, quoting official sources, today said that Israeli insistence on three advance warning posts -- which would mean a permament Israeli military presence in Lebanon -- weakened Lebanon's bargaining position in the talks for withdrawal of Syrian and Palestinian troops.

Israeli newspapers reported, meanwhile, that Israel wanted three warning stations located on Mount al-Baruk, whcih dominates the Al-Biqa' plain, and in the southern Lebanese towns of Sidon and An-Nabatiyah.

The daily AS-SAFIR added here that if Israel obtained such concessions, Syria would ask for similar facilities, including a radar station on Mount Sannin and the permanent right to intervene in the Al-Biqa' plain, which experts say is "the soft underbelly" of Syria.

But Lebanese newspapers quoted Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan as saying his government would reject both demands and refuse military facilities on its soil to foreign countries.

Lebanon, he said, "has the right to enjoy complete sovereignty on its territory without having to submit to conditions endangering its existence."

Israeli Paper on Talks

TA250819 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Jan 83 pp 1, 2

[Report by diplomatic correspondent David Landau and agencies]

[Text] The atmosphere of stalemate that permeated the top-level talks with U.S. envoy Philip Habib in Jerusalem last week made itself clearly felt yesterday at the lower-level Israel-Lebanon-U.S. negotiations at Khaldah, near Beirut.

The Lebanese and Israeli heads of delegation made tough-sounding pronouncements at the start of the session. And after a day of deliberations in three subcommittees, there was no reference to "progress" in the brief official statement.

There are to be further meetings of the subcommittees today or tomorrow -- once the two sides can agree on a venue. Yesterday there was discord over whether the venue should be Herzliyya, as Israel wants, or Nahariyya, as Lebanon prefers.

The tone was set by Lebanon's chief delegate, Antoine Fattal, who began the day's proceedings by reading out a statement in which he explained that Lebanon could not accept Israel's demands on mutual relations ("normalization") or on security arrangements. To do so would be to risk a rupture with the Arab world, he said.

A Lebanese official source said the main problem was that Israel was asking for early warning stations in southern Lebanon manned by its own experts. The Lebanese regard the proposal as infringing on their sovereignty and bound to provoke opposition both within Lebanon and from Syria.

Fattal reiterated Lebanon's insistence that UNIFIL play a role in the south of the country, after the IDF's withdrawal. Lebanon also wanted to see units of the multi-national force deployed in the south, he said.

As for mutual relations, Israeli negotiators said Fattal seemed to envisage "the barest minimum that is possible," in this area.

Israel's David Kimche had no set speech prepared in advance. But he decided that Fattal's statement could not be allowed to pass without a rejoinder, and launched into an exposition of the Israel views on security and mutual relations.

Kimche asserted to the Lebanese delegates that their country's troubles had begun in 1969, when Lebanon allowed itself "to be dictated to" by other Arab states and had agreed to the "Cairo agreement" permitting the PLO to deploy in the south. This was a grievous blow to Lebanese sovereignty, he asserted.

Lebanon today should tell those Arab states which are once again pressuring it that this time it will not accept a 'diktat'. If Lebanon surrenders to another 'diktat', Kimche said, its situation will be immeasurably worse than before.

When the Katyusha rocket landed nearby, the negotiators decided unanimously to proceed with the talks as a symbol of their determination to pursue peace in the face of forces seeking to disrupt their efforts.

After the declarative and sharply conflicting statements, the negotiators broke into three subcommittees -- on mutual relations, withdrawal and security, and possible guarantees. Here, according to an Israeli spokesman, the atmosphere was "business-like."

AL-JUMAYYIL RECEIVES REPORT ON HABIB TALKS

NC251240 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil today recieved a report conveyed by Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim on the results of Philip Habib's tour of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Israel. Minsiter Salim met for 2 hours yesterday with the head of the U.S. delegation to the negotiations, Ambassador Draper, from whom he recieved the report on the results of Habib's talks.

According to reports available to this hour from various sources, progress in the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations depends on what Philip Habib will bring back with him at the end of the week from Washington. Reports from the U.S. capital indicate so far that the White House is very concerned about Habib's stumbling talks which aimed at bringing the Israeli stand closer to the U.S. stand.

Until the significance of the U.S. expression of concern is clear and Habib returns at the end of the week to Beirut and the area, everything now focuses on what will take place at the meeting of the U.S. and Egyptian presidents as the talks will deal with, among other things, the question of Lebanon.

SOVIET OFFICIAL EXPLAINS USSR NONINTERVENTION

NC221656 Paris AFP in English 1640 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Text] Beirut, Jan 22 (AFP) -- The Soviet Union did not enter last summer's Israeli-Lebanese war because such an intervention would have brought on a nuclear war, a Soviet official said here today.

"Our direct intervention would have further complicated the situation in Lebanon..." and "...would have probably brought on a nuclear war," said Mukhamed Asimov, Supreme Soviet member [title as received], quoted by the official Lebanese news agency.

Mr Asimov, here at the head of a delegation representing the "Soviet Committee for Peace and Solidarity," made the statement in response to a reporter's question after a meeting with Lebanese Parliament Vice-President Munir Abu Fadil.

He said Moscow was calling for "a halt to aggression (against Lebanon) as well as an end to the (Israeli) occupation and an unconditional Israeli withdrawal (?from) Lebanese territory."

Asimov Criticizes Negotiations

NC240659 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Text] Mukhamed Asimov, leader of the Soviet delegation which is currently visiting Lebanon, emphasized in a press statement that the continuation of the current negotiations between Lebanon and Israel will help the United States and Israel to consolidate their presence and implement their plans.

Asimov said: The U.S. fleet close to the Lebanese coast came to impose negotiations on Lebanon. Is it then possible to believe the U.S. intentions toward the Lebanese people when such fleets are in Lebanese waters?

Asimov expressed his opinion that the Middle East problem is interlinked and that the Lebanese question cannot be separated from it. He pointed out that Lebanon must adhere to the Security Council's resolutions, particularly Resolutions 508 and 509 which demand Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon.

KHADDAM BRIEFS CABINET ON ARAB CONTACTS

JN241411 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Excerpt] The cabinet held a meeting at 1100 today under Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm. At the beginning of the meeting, the Cabinet reviewed various developments in the Arab and international arenas, the situation in the region, and the political and military probabilities resulting from the continuation of Israel's aggressive objectives supported by the United States.

During this review, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, submitted a political report to the cabinet meeting explaining the various issues pertaining to Lebanese-Israeli negotiations, the Arab countries' positions, and the results of several contacts in the Arab arena. He also explained the conspiracy aimed at containing the Palestinian revolution by canceling its fundamental militant role. This conspiracy is linked to the escalating Israeli threats, aided by the United States, against Syria, which constitutes a solid barrier confronting premeditated aggressive plans and all the political and military pressures that seek to impose capitulation.

SYRIAN-USSR SOLIDARITY STATEMENT REPORTED

JN231931 Damascus Domestic Service inArabic 1615 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] Syria and the Soviet Union have condemned the aggression and the Savage genocidal crimes which have been committed against the Syrian, Lebanese, and Palestinian peoples by the Zionist invasion forces, with the support and direct participation of the U.S. imperialism, militarily, economically, and politically.

In a joint statement issued at the end of the meetings between the Syrian and Soviet committees for solidarity with Asian and African countries under the cochairmanship of Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, assistant secretary general of the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party, and Mirza Ibragimov, chairman of the Soviet Committee and first deputy chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, the two sides condemned all the capitulatory imperialist plans, which Washington wants to impose on the region and which are represented by the escalating threat against Syria and the pressure on Lebanon to make it sign a unilateral peace agreement with the Zionist enemy.

The two sides stressed their rejection of separate deals which are based on continuing the Camp David conspiracy. They also considered the Reagan plan a phase in the continued U.S. plan to frustrate a just peace in the region and to deny the Palestinian Arab people their legitimate right to establish their own independent state and to exercise self-determination.

The two sides reaffirmed that the Israeli attack on Lebanon is a continuation of the Israeli trend toward domination of Arab land in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and Golan. They demanded a complete, unconditional Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories. They also condemned, in the name of public opinion in their countries, the aggressive development of U.S. imperialism, which is now taking a dangerous course in its attempt to step up international tension and threaten the fate and safety of humanity through the formation of a central command of U.S. forces, whose duties and aggressive activities cover a large area of the world, including the Middle East and Near East as well as the African states.

The two sides believe that the AAPSO plays a prominent and important role in leading world public opinion and mobilizing it to confront the growing imperialist conspiracy, and that the unity of the progressive Arab forces, particularly the Syrians and Palestinians, constitute the effective reply to all challenges during this stage.

The USSR delegation highly praised the Syrian militant stand under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad and represented by Syria's confrontation of the imperialist-Zionist aggression. It also affirmed the absolute support of the peoples of the friendly Soviet Union for the Syrian role and its honorable stand. The Syrian delegation also highly appreciated the true stand and sincere assistance of the peoples of the friendly Soviet Union to back our people's continued struggle and firm confrontation of the increasing imperialist-Zionist plans.

USSR Solidarity Official Departs

JN241458 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1415 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Text] Mirza Ibragimov, chairman of the AAPSO Committee in the USSR and first deputy chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, has praised revolutionary Syria's great achievements under the historic leadership of the Ba'th party and its secretary general, comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad.

In a predeparture statement this afternoon, Ibragimov reaffirmed the support of the USSR for Syria in all fields. During his 1-week visit, Ibragimov held meetings with several party officials and members of the AAPSO committee in the country.

AL-MUSTAQBAL ON NEW USSR MILITARY AID TO SYRIA

JN241604 Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 22 Jan 83 pp 10-13

[Article by AL-MUSTAQBAL correspondent As'ad Haydar: "Waiting for Andropov"]

[Excerpt] Moscow, which has chosen the PLO as a bargaining card in the region, deals with Syria as the cornerstone of any USSR move or solution.

As previously revealed by AL-MUSTAQBAL, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, who paid a secret visit to Moscow on 4 June 1982, 24 hours before the Israeli invasion, and on 2 September 1982, after the Palestinians withdrew from Beirut, was the only foreign leader to meet with Andropov as Brezhnev's confirmed successor. Another meeting took place during Brezhnev's funeral.

Citing well-informed Arab sources, AL-MUSTAQBAL can reaffirm that Syria has obtained new types of weapons as part of the policy of reevaluation of the military results of the war in Lebanon by the USSR military command.

During the war, Colonel General Yurasov, first deputy commander in chief of the USSR Air Defense Forces, visited Damascus. It has also been reported that Nikolay Ogarkov, chief of the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces, also visited Damascus.

The reported presence of two SAM-5 launchers is only part of the new and sophisticated USSR military hardware which, according to Arab sources, also include:

Air-to-air missiles with a 93-km range. During the war, Israeli planes were equipped with air-to-air missiles with a 60-km range.

Modification of the MiG-23's which Syria possesses so that they equal the MiG-27 in terms of electronic sophisitcation, etcetera.

Equipping of the Syrian Armored Corps with several brigades of T-72 tanks, which proved to be very effective during the war, particularly during the Bhamdun and 'Alayh battles.

Establishment of a sophisticated network of missiles along the Syrian borders with significant support from Soviet experts.

Some Arab sources have told AL-MUSTAQBAL that the most important thing which Syria has obtained is amendment of the Syrian-USSR friendship treaty. Article VII of the treaty was amended to maintain the security of the Syrian forces and assist them inside and outside Syrian territory. This means that the treaty covers the Syrian forces in Lebanon.

SYRIAN-PLO OFFICIALS MEET IN DAMASCUS

JN230717 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Palestine National Council Speaker Khalid al-Fahum chaired a meeting at the Foreign Ministry in Damascus yesterday evening which was attended by representatives of the major Palestinian organizations within the PLO. Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department; 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, PLO official spokesman; Abu Mahir [Ahmad al-Yamani], representing the PFLP; Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, representing the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine; Talal Naji, PFLP-General Command; and Muhammad Khalifah, representing As-Sa'iqah, also participated in the meeting.

In a statement to WAFA after the meeting, Abu Mayzar said that the conferees specifically discussed the conspiracies which threaten the Palestinian people's rights and the PLO's sole representation of the Palestinian people.

Abu Mayzar added that the discussion also dealt with the threats against the Arab world and the Palestinian cause. He said that viewpoints were identical on the need to confront imperialist and Zionist schemes with all means.

PLO Radio Report

JN241733 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Text] A meeting was held at the Syrian Foreign Ministry yesterday between Syrian and Palestinian delegations to discuss the current state of affairs and means of confronting the imperialist-Zionist challenges. The Palestinian side was chaired by Palestine National Council Speaker Khalid al-Fahum and the Syrian side was chaired by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Attending the meeting on the Palestinian side were Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department; PLO Executive Committee members 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, Abu Mahir al-Yamani [Ahmad al-Yamani], Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, Talal Naji, and Muhammad Khalifah; and Brother Abu Mahir [Muhammad Ghunaym], Fatah Central Committee member.

The PLO Executive Committee official spokesman said in a statement following the meeting that the conferees discussed the Arab situation and developments, the plots aimed at the Palestinian people's inalienable rights and the PLO's sole representation of the Palestinian people.

AL-AHMAR RECEIVES PALESTINIAN COMMUNIST OFFICIALS

JN221306 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, the assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, received this morning a delegation of the Palestinian Communist Party comprising Na'im al-Ashhab and Sulayman an-Nashshab, member of the party's Central Committee. During the meeting, the two sides discussed the latest political developments in the Arab region, particularly in the Palestinian and Lebanese arenas.

RADIO MONTE CARLO CITES TISHRIN ON PREPAREDNESS

JN241841 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Text] Damascus is preparing for an eventual Israeli attack. This was confirmed today by Syrian Minister of Culture Najah al-'Attar in an article published by TISHRIN. In this article, Najah al-'Attar stated that the Syrian forces are now more prepared than they were during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon last summer. The Syrian minister stressed that Damascus is taking the Israeli threat seriously.

AL-BA'TH CRITICIZES U.S. REACTION TO SAM-5'S

JN210736 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 21 Jan 83

[From the press review]

[Text] In its "Opinion" corner, the newspaper AL-BA'TH writes the following comment: The U.S. President has finally managed to fabricate a justification to oppose Syria's armament, which is aimed purely at defending its borders and existence as well as the rights of the Arab nation. President Reagan's pretext notes that the deployment of defensive weapons in Syria is an element endangering the U.S. 6th Fleet. It appears that Reagan has forgotten that the presence of the U.S. fleets thousands of miles from the U.S. borders constitutes the gravest actual danger.

AL-BA'TH says that the U.S. President considers the evolution of any Arab force as a new factor which could upset the balance of powers. Hence, Reagan did not hesitate to share Israel's apprehension after Syria made it clear that the usurpation of Arab land should not be essential for maintaining this balance and that Syria cannot be easily deceived by the U.S. and Zionist deception and viciousness.

Now that U.S. diplomacy has successfully attained its objectives in dividing Arab ranks, the United States is preparing Israel to attack Syria. The United States is making a clamor over Syria's acquisition of weapons which are purely for self-defense. What actually worries the United States is that the aggression, which is being planned with the collaboration of the Israeli leadership will not be easy and will not produce guaranteed results. This is the source of the U.S. worry. Israel, according to the U.S. perspective, should be able to move toward any spot in the Arab homeland unresisted, because any Israeli defeat would mean a U.S. defeat. Hence, the U.S. presidential order to furnish Israel with all information available to the CIA and U.S. spy satellites.

In conclusion, AL-BA'TH says: Such a U.S. stand makes it incumbent upon the Arab citizen to review his true situation. Since the United States is endeavoring to make Israel superior to all the Arabs; since the United States is exerting strenuous efforts to bring about the Arabs' submission to the Israeli will; and since the Arabs dispute is one over the U.S. stand on the Arab nation, there are no justifications whatsoever for the Arab citizen to defend the United States unless he is seeking to become a member of the U.S. intelligence organs.

PRIME MINISTER APPEARS BEFORE KNESSET COMMITTEE

TA241240 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1150 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Report by Knesset correspondent Arye Golan -- live]

[Text] Appearing before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, the prime minister said negotiations on an arrangement in Lebanon are being conducted on two levels: direct negotiations with Lebanon and negotiations through U.S. envoy Philip Habib.

Begin said an agenda for debates was agreed upon with Lebanon and though this was not an essential matter, it was important. The formula agreed upon contains some elements which we demanded. Meanwhile, we have agreed with them in principle to end the state of war. At our demand, the Lebanese agreed with this demand but there is an argument over the timing. The Lebanese say the end of the state of war will take effect only after all foreign forces have been evacuated from Lebanon. They claim that as long as the IDF remains there it is impossible to end the state of war. In response, we claim that we did not fight Lebanon but we went there to fight the terrorists. Well then, the argument is over the timing.

As for the talks with Philip Habib, Begin said the former expresses the full willingness of the United States for normalization in Israeli-Lebanese relations. Begin said we are running into difficulties with the Americans regarding the conditions for the withdrawal. We insist on the existence of early warning stations because we regard this as a vital condition for ensuring that the terrorists do not penetrate into southern Lebanon.

Begin went on to say that we did not reach agreement with Philip Habib, even after the latter returned from Lebanon and it was agreed that this issue would continue to be discussed by the special subcommittee dealing with withdrawal issues. In view of the fact that this issue does not enjoy U.S. support, debates over it are more difficult, Begin said. We proposed a two-stage withdrawal of all foreign forces but Lebanon insists on a one-stage withdrawal. Habib said, this is another quote from the talks he conducted in Israel, that he is almost persuaded that the Syrians would be ready to get out of Lebanon. However, Begin emphasized, there is nothing explicit about the position or willingness of the terrorists.

Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres referred in the meeting to four fundamental problems, which he believes were caused by the war: the exacerbation of the confrontation between the superpowers and the increase of their involvement in our region, the increase of the arms race between us and the Arabs, the need to create a basis for negotiations with Husayn, and, according, ending our belligerent involvement in Lebanon. Peres said a choice must be made between an absolute evacuation of all forces, including ours, or our partial evacuation while taking the risk that the PLO and Syria might remain in Lebanon.

At this point, Shim'on Peres took issue with the government's position regarding the warning stations. He said he did not see the need for warning stations and that, in any case, he thinks the consequence of this Israeli demand will be that there will be no comprehensive withdrawal at all. He suggested that Israel try to reach an understanding with the Americans about the conditions for a withdrawal. Peres also said that he is upset by the increasing confrontation with the United States.

Shlomo Hilel suggested: Let's do what is good for us, not everything must be made conditional on a comprehensive withdrawal or on having the terrorists withdraw first. Hilil foresees a prolonged Israeli presence in Lebanon involving casualties and great difficulties.

Mordekhay Gur told Begin: We are not conducting negotiatons with our real enemies -- the PLO and Syria -- but rather with Lebanon, with which we do not have any business. Gur said the Syrian presence in Lebanon does not endanger Israel. On the other hand, Israel faces a greater menace from the Russian missiles stationed near Damascus.

At this point Gur warned the prime minister: Sharon dragged you into a larger war than you wanted and he might yet drag you into another war with Syria.

The prime minister replied firmly: I object to this argument.

Gur went on to say that the Biblical phrase "Sons have I reared and brought up, but they have rebelled against me" -- referring to Sharon and Eytan -- applies to the prime minister. You should have more control over your subordinates, especially the defense minister, Gur told the prime minister.

Ehud Olmert charges that, through their position, Alignment spokesmen have actually given in on the demand for the withdrawal of all forces from Lebanon and they propose that we give in on the essential matters even before the actual negotiations have begun. There is no doubt that the United State is seeking to prove to the Arab states that it can bend Israel's arm in Lebanon in order to compel it toward a political agreement that it does not want so as to convince Husayn to join the negotiations over Judea and Samaria, he said.

Begin summed up the meeting. I will briefly mention his reactions to remarks by those attending the meeting. Replying to a question by Roni Milo, he said that unequivocal instructions have been issued about clashes with the Marines. A sort of liaison office with the U.S. command in Beirut hs been set up to prevent such incidents from recurring in the future.

All our demands in the negotiations, the prime minister said, are aimed at preventing a recurrence of the previous situation in southern Lebanon. If we accepted Shlomo Hilel's demand not to demand that the terrorists withdraw first, how could we prevent their return to southern Lebanon, the prime minister wondered. He vehemently rejected Gur's claims that the defense minister and the chief of staff had received and misled him and confirmed the chief of staff's remarks that in the order issued to the army there was no mention of 45 km. Still, the Cabinet decided on 45 km when we reached that line; then the Cabinet decided to stop. The prime minister also told Gur: You yourself proposed attacking the Syrians already on the first day of the war whereas the Cabinet had at that time sought to abstain from this. We fought against the Syrians, the prime minister concluded, only in reaction to the attack which they lauched.

JERUSALEM POST Account

TA250808 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Jan 83 pp 1, 2

[Report by Knesset correspondent Asher Wallfish]

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin admitted frankly yesterday that the negotiations with Lebanon have run into difficulties.

Briefing the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee, Begin said that while Israel had certain points of disarmament with the U.S. with regard to the negotiations, "our demands are justified and so it is a question of convincing the other partners."

Although the agenda agreed upon with the Lebanese was not "substantive," he conceded, it is important to remember that the agenda contains elements which Israel had insisted upon.

Israel and Lebanon have reached a decision in principle on the termination of the state of war, he said, but the withdrawal issue is still being argued.

Lebanon is insisting that the negotiators first complete their talks about the withdrawal and continue only after that is settled, Begin said.

He said that Israel is insisting on early warning stations, because it believes that without this condition, it would be impossible to prevent terrorists infiltrating back into southern Lebanon. The issue had been referred to one of the subcommittees, he said, since Israel did not reach agreement over it with U.S. envoy Philip Habib, either before or after his latest visit to Beirut.

Without American support on the issue of the early warning stations, Begin said, the matter would be much harder to settle.

With regard to the actual withdrawal, the premier said, Israel is proposing a two-stage pullback, while Lebanon wants the entire pullback in one phase.

Habib had said in the talks that he was "almost convinced that Syria is ready to withdraw from Lebanon." However, Begin said that the terrorists' position with regard to withdrawal is "quite unclear."

He said the IDF units around Beirut had received strict orders not to open fire on U.S. Marines. A special liaison office had been set up to settle differences with the U.S. troops, he said.

Israel had to demand that the PLO move out first, he said in reply to one Alignment suggestion, because otherwise it would be impossible to make sure they did not return to Lebanon.

He denied a charge by former Chief of Staff Mordekhay Gur that Defence Minister Ari'el Sharon and Chief of Staff Rav-Aluf [Lieutenant General] Refa'el Eytan had "deceived the Cabinet" with regard to the conduct of the war. (Gur had said: "Sharon and Eytan bit the hand that fed them.")

Begin told Gur: "You yourself suggested we attack the Syrians on the first day of the fighting. But the government wanted to avoid just that. We fought the Syrians only after they attacked us first."

He admitted, as Eytan had claimed in the committee earlier, that the instruction to the Israel Defence Forces did not mention any 40-45 kilometre line. The government decided to halt the advance at the 45 km line," Begin said.

KNESSET COMMITTEE SAYS SHARON 'MUST RESIGN'

TA251118 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] The Knesset subcommittee for basic laws decided today that the defense minister has broken two basic laws and must resign. The Knesset committee says the minister broke the basic law of the government and the basic law of the army by not bringing the Cabinet's decision on the IDF advance in Lebanon to a range of 45 km to the chief of staff's knowledge.

Our correspondent Tzvi Yisre'eli notes that the decision was made on the government's authority to declare war. Two Likud members, "Aqiva Nof and Yitzhaq Berman, were present at the committee meeting where the decision was made.

BEGIN VISIT POSTPONED; SHAMIR PRAISES U.S. ROLE

TA250821 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Jan 83 pp 1, 2

[Report by diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] Premier Menahem Begin's visit to Washington has in effect been postponed by President Ronald Reagan it is now admitted in Jerusalem.

Despite initial angry denials from Begin's spokesman when reports to this effect were first published in the U.S., officials here now concede that the invitation to Begin has been re-scheduled from mid-Feburary to an as-yet-undetermined future date.

Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told a visiting group of Australian Socialist MP's that the U.S. was playing "a very useful role in mediation and in bridging gaps" in the Lebanon negotiation.

This observation was in marked contrast to some highly critical sentiments voiced about the U.S. role by Defence Minister Ari'el Sharon at Sunday's Cabinet meeting, and by other Israeli officials in private conversations.

At the Cabinet, it seemed to some of those present, Sharon's sentiments were endorsed, at least passively, by Begin. Nor, these sources noted, did Shamir go out of his way to contradict them.

Shamir told the visiting Australians that the "main problem" in the negotiations was Arab world pressure upon Lebanon.

AVOIDANCE OF CLASHES WITH U.S. MARINES STRESSED

TA250734 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] The U.S. Marine commander in Beirut canceled a meeting with the commander of the IDF in the area last week, arguing that he was forbidden by higher-ups to hold the meeting. This has been learned by our military correspondent, Hayim Ravya.

Major General Amir Drori, commander of the northern command, said yesterday that the Marines are actually providing shelter for the terrorists who operate from their area. A meeting is scheduled for tomorrow between the commander of the northern command and the local IDF unit commmander and the Marines commander.

[Begin Ravya recording] Northern command officials want to place the latest incidents with the Marines in a different perspective. We have been told that these are not real incidents, but someone is trying to blow them up, although it is not clear who or why. There is, however, no clash or confrontation with the Marines. Naturally, they emphasize, our forces do not intend to hit the Marines. On the contrary, this is the spirit in which Maj Gen Amir Drori also expressed his view yesterday, describing the publications around those events as a tempest in a teapot and, saying that what happened could have been prevented had the Americans accepted a coordinating meeting between the commanders of the forces.

We have learned that about a week ago a meeting had been scheduled for the commander of the Marines in Beirut and the IDF commander in the sector. The U.S. officer announced that he would not attend the meeting and later apologized, saying that he had been ordered not to go to that meeting. The U.S. liaison officer to the multi-national force was sent in his place; he met with the IDF liaison officer with the Lebanese Army.

Another attempt was made to arrange a meeting between the two parties on Wednesday. The commander of the northern command said that against their will, the Marines also serve as a buffer between the IDF and the terrorists, preventing the former from carrying out antiterrorist activity. As for the line separating the IDF from the Marines -- the old railroad track line that the Americans deny exists -- the IDF has forbidden its forces to cross that line while pursuing terrorists, even if they can see a squad crossing it in the direction of the territories under the Marines' control. This line has thus far never been crossed. To repeat, the Americans say they do not recognize the existence of such an arrangement, but apparently exactly 4 weeks ago, on 25 December, this was agreed upon in a meeting between Habib, Draper, and Lewis and the defense minister, the chief of staff, and the director general of the Foreign Ministry. [end recording]

BEN-ME'IR ON WARNING STATIONS IN LEBANON

TA231357 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Deputy Foreign Minister Yehuda Ben-Me'ir interviewed on 23 January by David Essing -- recorded]

[Text] [Question] Deputy Foreign Minister Yehuda Ben-Me'ir, there are reports today of a growing confrontation between Israel and the United States over Lebanon. Habib reportedly made veiled threats to Israel last week at his meetings with Israeli officials. How serious is this confrontation today, Mr Ben-Me'ir?

[Answer] I participated in all the meetings with Mr Habib. I did not hear any threats, neither veiled or unveiled, and I do not think that the conversation between Israel and the United States is in a language of threats. There are differences of opinion between the United States and ourselves regarding the arrangements in Lebanon. I would like to stress that we have full agreement regarding our objectives in Lebanon. The objectives are: for all foreign forces to leave Lebanon; for Lebanon to be a free, independent, sovereign country with its territorial integrity preserved; and for a guarantee of security arrangements for Israel in a new relationship between Israel and Lebanon. As in every negotiation, there are complicated negotiations, there are many issues involved, and there are differences of opinion on a number of points which I do not want to minimize. But I do not think there is any crisis and I do not think there is any threat. There is a lot of exaggeration involved, as usual.

[Question] Lebanese Premier Shafiq al-Wazzan has reportedly said that his country should agree to Americans manning the three early warning stations that Israel wants in the future security agreement in south Lebanon. Is Israel still opposed to Americans manning these early warning stations?

[Answer] Israel is not opposed, Israel is in favor. We are not opposed to anything. We are in favor of many of the good things. And one of the things we favor is that for a given time -- we have stressed, for a given time, not forever -- for a given time, which will be agreed upon between Israel and Lebanon in our negotiations, there should be early warning stations, Israeli early warning stations. It should be clear. These are minimal things and given specific areas, manned, of course, by Israelis in very, very small numbers. We had such arrangements before; this was a common practice in situations for a given time, to guarantee that, indeed, we will be able to make sure that once again south Lebanon is not used as a base for PLO terrorists.

Everyone knows that the PLO has not given up its hope of going back to Lebanon. I just read in this week's NEWSWEEK, for instance, that a speaker of PLO in Tunisia, and they say we are going to come back to Lebanon again. [as heard] The danger exists. So for a while, for a certain period of time, these three stations are necessary, Israeli early warning stations. This is a very minimal thing and this is in no way an infringement on Lebanese sovereignty. And, we are in favor of Israeli warning stations so that they guarantee for this interim period we can preserve security in southern Lebanon, which is for us a matter of life.

[Question] But the Americans seem to be saying that if Israel insists on this, the Syrians could also demand the same kind of arrangement and that U.S. troops have been manning early warning stations in the Sinai.

[Answer] As far as the first question, this was raised in our discussions with the United States. They received a clear-cut answer from us, I cannot go into the details, I cannot divulge it but we have answered this point made by the United States.

As far as the second question, there is great difference between the Sinai -- which is an open area and there the aims and the objectives of early warning stations are totally different -- and the case of Lebanon which is a heavily built up area. Here the problem is not of troops -- as the case was in Egypt, of massive troop movements which is something totally different -- here we have a problem of infiltration by day and by night, individuals, in small groups of these murderers and terrorists which can then wreak havoc and murder again on our north. And this is something totally different and must be done for this certain period of time, a limited period of time, which will be agreed upon -- this must be done by Israel. This is a matter of security. We are talking about nothing else and the United States has always agreed. And the people of Israel know -- even the opposition says that as far as security is concerned, the security arrangements, there is a national consensus regarding this issue. This is a must. We are talking about security arrangements. Again, remember, in a small zone of 45 km in southern Lebanon. Therefore, there is no alternative to the Israeli warning stations and I do not think there is any reason why Lebanon and the United States should not be willing to agree to this.

[Question] Can we turn to the situation in the Beirut area? The U.S. defense secretary, Caspar Weinberger, has criticized Israel for confrontations there between Israeli troops and U.S. peacekeeping troops with the multinational force. What is the situation there? What is the cause of this confrontation from time to time?

[Answer] Well, first of all, I think it should be clear -- and let me make it clear -- that there is nothing in the world that the Government of Israel, that the people of Israel -- and I am speaking for everyone -- would certainly never want, nothing more than we would never want is to have a situation of any confrontation. There is nothing more farthest [as heard] from our mind and from our desire. Everyone in the Government of Israel and the people of Israel, and any confrontation whatsoever or any negative [as heard] between Israeli troops and the U.S. Marines. We certainly appreciate their efforts here very much. This is a technical matter. There may have been some difficulties -- as you always have when you have the troops of different countries -- this is a technical matter. This was raised yet on Friday and the minister of defense and our military people are dealing with this with the United States, and undertaking the various technical consultations so as to make sure that nothing will happen and that we want an excellent relation -- as far as Israel is concerned -- good relations with the U.S. Marines.

We are allies and friends and these Marines are our friends and we certainly appreciate their presence and their effort here. We are going to do everything in our power to make sure that no problem will happen whatsoever, as far as we are concerned. I am sure this is the desire of all of us and it is now being dealt with at the technical level. I hope that everything will work out.

[Question] Finally, Dr Ben-Me'ir, the three Israelis who met with PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat last week, reportedly in Tunis: What is your reaction to this kind of development?

[Answer] My reaction is, of course, that there is hardly words with which to express our indignation at this disgrace. We have a situation -- in other countries, in other periods of time, this has been again: We know the phenomena of citizens of a country openly, defiantly meeting with the deadly enemies of this country. They are meeting with 'Arafat, the archmurderer, not only whose hands -- in the best -- are dripping with blood of men, women, and children; tens of tens of innocent children in Avivim, in Ma'alot -- an archmurderer. Even now he took credit for the attack on the bus in Tel Aviv. This is the leader of enemy forces which every night are trying to attack our soldiers in Lebanon. And it is really hard to believe that our heart rises against this in protest; the fact that soldiers now are defending Israel in the cold in Lebanon and after every night know that they may be attacked. Just last night again, RPG attacks at our soldiers by 'Arafat's men; these are our enemy, he is in a state of war with us. And, here Israeli citizens are not ashamed to reach such a low level, as the foreign minister characterized so correctly so; the lowest level of depravity in meeting with this man.

Yet, they are being proud about it. But, of course, this is a disgrace. Publicly, I have no doubt that 95 percent of the people of Israel condemn this disgraceful action by these three, of meeting openly with our most deadly enemy who at this very day is shooting at Israeli soldiers and trying to kill them and planning terrorist actions against the Jews all over the world. As far as the legal action involved, this is up to the legal experts, it is not a political issue. It is up to the attorney general. He will have to see if legal action can be taken and if not then, naturally, we will have to look into the prospects of changing the law and this has to be thought about carefully as any legislation must. And I am sure within the next few days we will deal with this.

WARNING STATIONS TO BE LIKE 'REGULAR ARMY BASES'

TA241150 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Jan 83 p 1

[Report by the military correspondent and the political correspondent]

[Excerpt] The intention, at least in regard to two early warning stations Israel plans to install in southern Lebanon, is to have military bases with a military presence there, not regular electronic stations such as the Americans have in the Sinai. This has been reported by military sources.

Involved are three stations that are actually military camps. The one in Jabal al-Baruk in the northern sector, north of the Al-Qir'awn Lake, is really more electronically equipped than a regular army base.

The two other stations are more like military bases. Israel intends to set up one near Sidon, and the other near the An-Nabatiyah plateau, closer to Jazzin. Involved is relatively limited military presence, and the idea is to make possible constant contact with those bases, not only with the help of helicopters. It is not clear how terrorist penetration into the area could be prevented through these bases, or whether the intention is also to have the soldiers stationed at the bases also make patrols.

MA'ARIV VIEWS 'CRISIS' IN RELATIONS WITH U.S.

TA241447 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 24 Jan 83 p 5

[Editorial: "Confrontation With the United States"]

[Text] Last week, one could discern the emergence of the crisis currently overshadowing Israeli-U.S. relations. Philip Habib's mission was aimed mainly at prodding Israel to hurry up and reach an agreement with Lebanon on IDF pullout with or without political and security achievements.

The impatience of the special U.S. envoy, which reflected President Reagan's restlessness, could be discerned. One could notice that in the tough negotiations on security and political arrangements with Lebanon, Israel could not count on any U.S. support.

At the end of last week, it was clear that matters were rapidly proceeding toward a confrontation. The U.S. envoy expressed opposition to the Israeli demand to establish three warning stations in southern Lebanon manned by IDF soldiers, to Israeli aspirations about the establishment of normal relations with Lebanon, and to proposals about the future of Major Haddad and his militia. After Philip Habib realized that all these demands are annoying to Amin al-Jumayyil's Muslim partners and would in any case cause great difficulties to the Lebanese president, he ruled that Israel should give up on all these expectations and agree to a withdrawal, almost without any conditions.

The Israeli Cabinet yesterday was inclined not to accept this U.S. demand and its position denoted that our relations with the United States have reached a state of sharp confrontation where neither side will spare any severe complaints.

It is almost certain that Philip Habib will report to President Reagan that Israel is foiling the negotiations through its obstinacy and is precluding an agreement on the pullout of foreign forces from Lebanon. There is no doubt that Israel will reply with a counterargument according to which the United States provoked the crisis in the negotiations through its refusal to prod the Lebanese president into meeting Israel halfway, and through its support for all those elements in Beirut which do not want any political or security undertaking toward Israel.

The question now is whether there is any chance of arriving at any achievements in the negotiations with Lebanon without U.S. support, and whether it is possible to change the obstinate U.S. position according to which Israel must get out of Lebanon without the achievements it wants.

The debate in the Cabinet yesterday reflected the sentiments of some ministers that, in fact, Israel does not hold any good cards in its bargaining with the United States. The Lebanese Government will not accept the Israeli demands if they are not backed by the Americans, and Habib's actions so far have made it plain to Beirut that the United States does not harbor any expectations about Lebanon: All its demands are addressed to Israel. Under these circumstances, it is feared that the negotiations in Khaldah and Qiryat Shemona might mark time rather than produce results.

The tough tone of Habib's remarks in his talks in Jerusalem lead to the conclusion that the possibility should not be ruled out that the U.S. President may try to change Israel's position by exerting pressures. The possibility was not explicitly mentioned, but the special U.S. envoy flaunted the President's expected anger.

What is clear is that Israel entered the negotiations with Lebanon with too high expectations and with a large surplus of self-confidence. The negotiations were not preceded by thorough preparations and a coordination of positions with the United States. The status of "President al-Jumayyil's associates," who promised more than they could deliver, was not assessed correctly. The possibility was not taken into account that the United States might abstain from supporting the Israeli demands and that, in any case, Beirut would see itself free to reject most of them.

Presumably, we will not benefit very much by exchanging accusations with the United States. Criticisms may be good for letting out anger and disappointment, but they cannot bring about a compromise or ease relations in the future. Since maintaining relations with the United States is by way of a must for Israel, efforts had better be invested in easing rather than exacerbating tensions. Our wisest arguments cannot replace rational thinking, a reassessment of the possibilities, and the formulation of a new policy instead of the one that failed.

It seems that the only way out of the current crisis lies in an attempt to coordinate positions with the United States now and to adapt our expectations to attainable achievements. Firmness in the negotiations may bear fruit if it is coupled with commonsense and a sense of reality.

And before it enters a severe conflict with the United States, and there is no knowing where such a thing might lead, Israel had better reassess its path according to the data in the field.

'LARGE' IDF GROUP SENT TO DISARM DRUZE

TA250612 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] Our military correspondent, Shmu'el Tal, has learned that the IDF has dispatched a large force to the village of Baysur near 'Alayh to disarm its Druze inhabitants. This was done following an incident yesterday between the inhabitants and Israeli security men, who came to the village to search for terrorists, when a number of armed men surrounded, abused, and humiliated them.

ALGERIA

IRANIAN OFFICIAL TO DISCUSS ALGERIAN ACCORD

LD251001 Tehran IRNA in English 0900 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] Algiers, Jan 25 IRNA -- Deputy Prime Minister Manuchehr Mohammadi (name and title as received) arrived here Monday evening to discuss the issues related to the U.S. violations on the Algerian accord. At the airport he was welcomed by Algerian Minister of Justice Boualem Baki and Iranian ambassador in that country.

He met and conferred with the Algerian finance minister and deputy minister of foreign affairs.

Algerian accord was the base through which U.S. spies which were taken hostage in Tehran were released in 1980. According to that agreement which was concluded with the mediation of Algeria the U.S. was bound to clear certain outstanding issues with Iran. That country did not follow the accord, it was also reported earlier.

AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER PAHR VISITS 23-24 JAN

AU241524 Vienna WIENER ZEITUNG in German 23 Jan 83 p 2

[Summary] Foreign Minister Willibald Pahr arrived in Algiers from Paris on Saturday for a 3-day official visit. He had a first talk with Algerian Foreign Minister Taleb Ibrahimi on Saturday afternoon.

"The two ministers discussed numerous current topics: the situation in the Middle East in the light of the decisions of the Fes Arab summit conference and of the Reagan plan (U.S. participation in seeking a Middle East solution); the Iranian-Iraqi war, regarding which Algeria has made intensive mediation efforts to end the fighting; the problems of the African states after the abortive summit of Tripoli, and the forthcoming nonaligned conference in New Delhi." Pahr is accompanied by a large economic delegation. During his stay in Algiers, he is scheduled to sign an aviation agreement. The central topic of his economic talks in Algiers will be Austria's continuing participation in Algeria's railroad modernization program. [According to Vienna WIENER ZEITUNG in German on 22 January, page 2, Pahr will proceed from Algiers to Morocco on 24 January, and from there on 27 January to Tunisia for a 3-day official visit].

Talks With Ibrahimi

LD231212 Algiers APS in English 1000 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] Algiers, 23/1/83 (APS) -- Political talks between Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, Politburo member, foreign affairs minister, and Mr Willibald Pahr, Austrian foreign minister, started yesterday. The two ministers exchanged their points of view, on the current international situation characterized by an increasing tension on both the economic and political plans.

A wide convergence of views between the two sides came out, mainly as concerns the necessity to work to relaunch the North-South dialogue. During his sojourn here, the Austrian minister will confer with several Algerian ministers on relations between the two countries in the economic field before being audienced by President Chadli Bendjedid.

Besides the Austrian minister's activities, the economic delegation which is accompanying him will have contacts with Algerian responsibles of national companies in order to reinforce the bilateral cooperation. Mr Pahr said, when he arrived in Algiers, that his "visit constitutes one of the elements of relations which are furthermore excellent between Algeria and Austria."

Departs Algiers 24 Jan

LD251116 Algiers APS in English 1000 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] Algiers, 25/1/83 (APS) -- The Austrian foreign minister, Mr Willibald Pahr, left here yesterday after a three day official visit. In a statement to the press, Mr Willibald Pahr said that an important convergence of views came out during the talks he held with Algerian responsibles. "I noticed," he underlined, "that we observed the same commitment as for the international peace and solidarity and the support for less advanced countries".

As concerns bilateral relations, the Austrian minister said both countries decided to strengthen economic exchanges and cooperation. He pointed out, in this connection, that the Algerian-Austrian joint commission would be extended to the industrial agricultural, cultural and scientific fields. He added that the commission would meet in March to define axes of the bilateral cooperation. He further expressed wishes to stabilize in a near future the exchange levels between the two countries.

ZAMBIAN PRIME MINISTER CONCLUDES VISIT

LD222106 Algiers APS in English 1000 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Text] Algiers, 22/1/83 -- Zimbabwe Prime Minister Mr Robert Mugabe is to leave Algiers today after a four day visit in Algiers at the invitation of President Chadli Bendjedid.

Mr Mugabe was back here yesterday after 24 hour visit in the eastern part of Algiers where he visited several cultural, social and economic achievements.

In Constantine (about 450 kms east Algiers) the prime minister visted the university, its auditorium, the central library building and the sector of sciences.

He further visited, in the industrial zone of Skikda (about 150 kms north Constantine), the gas liquefying plant, the oil-refinery and the plant of plastic products. He was given information about the different steps related to the achievement of the petro-chemical plant of Skikda which is one of the most important centers of the petro-chemical industry of the country.

Algeria's host [as received] also visited the new oil port which was exclusively achieved for the industrial zone.

Moreover, in the frame of the Algerian-Zimbabwean cooperation, talks were held here between Mr Richard Hove, Zimbabwe trade minister, and Messrs Mohamed Rouighi, secretary of state to forestries and land development, and Ali O'Bouzar, secretary of state to external trade.

The talks were centered on relations in the fields of forest and safeguard of nature and the possibility to develop commercial relations between Algeria and Zimbabwe.

Joint Communique Issued

LD222140 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Text] An Algerian-Zimbabwean joint communique was released in Algiers today following the official visit by Zimbabwean Prime Minister Robert Mugabe. The communique said:

At the invitation of His Excellency Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria and secretary general of the FLN Party, the right honorable Comrade Robert Gabriel Mugabe, prime minister of the Republic of Zimbabwe and president of the Zimbabwe African National Union, paid an official visit to Algeria 19-22 January 1983.

Soon after his arrival Prime Minister Robert Mugabe placed a bouquet of roses at the martyrs monument. During his stay in Algeria he visited Constantine University and the petrochemical complex in Skikda. The Zimbabwean prime minister and the accompanying delegation praised the efforts of the Algerian people to guarantee and consolidate their independence in all fields.

The prime minister of Zimbabwe had official talks with President Chadli Bendjedid. They took place in a friendly atmosphere dominated by solidarity and mutual understanding.

After noting the composition of the Algerian and Zimbabwean delegations which held the talks, the communique added that the talks dealt with the question of developing bilateral relations and also the current international situation, particularly in Africa and the Middle East.

Concerning bilateral relations, the two sides noted the existence of important prospects to promote their cooperation. The two sides saluted the quality of the relations between the two countries and affirmed their joint will to strengthen bilateral cooperation in their mutual interest and to deepen its content and form with whatever responds to the legitimate aspirations of their two peoples.

The two sides agreed to invest the necessary means to guarantee the effectiveness of their cooperation. In particular they agreed to hold the first session of the Algerian-Zimbabwean mixed commission.

The Algerian and Zimbabwean sides, on studying the international situation, placed on record their deep concern at the increase in tension which is threatening world peace.

Prime Minister Robert Mugabe and President Chadli Bendjedid paid special attention to the situation prevailing in Africa. In this connection, they renewed their attachment and faith in African unity. They also renewed their absolute will to make all efforts to safeguard the OAU, which is an excellent framework for consultation, and to work with the aim of solving African problems and bringing to an end the decolonization of the continent on the basis of respecting the principles and objectives of the organization's charter.

The two leaders expressed deep concern over the situation in Africa which is distinguished by the policy of permanent hegemony and occupation and aggression and instability which is being implemented by the racist regime of Pretoria against the frontline states.

The two leaders denounced the so-called inability of the Western contact group to try to apply pressure on the South African regime, which is continuing in the absence of any sanctions the policy of intransigence and total rejection for the purpose of imposing neocolonialist solutions which exclude SWAPO, the sole and legitimate representative of the people of Namibia, and ignore the resolutions of the international community.

They affirmed their support for the armed struggle of the Namibian people under the leadership of SWAPO and noted that Resolution 465 of the Security Council is the framework within which the search for a just and permanent solution should be undertaken to bring about a just and lasting settlement of the Namibian question.

Zimbabwean Prime Minister Mr Robert Mugabe and President Chadli Bendjedid denounced the Bantustan policy which is being followed by the minority government of Pretoria against the heroic people of South Africa. They renewed their militant solidarity with them in their struggle against racist regimes which are condemned by the international community.

The two sides expressed deep concern on studying the situation in northwest Africa in the face of increasing tension and the dangers of internationalizing the Western Sahara dispute by the intervention of forces alien to Africa. Once again they affirmed their firm solidarity with the Saharan people and their legitimate representative, the Polisario. They believe that direct talks between the two sides in the conflict -- the SDAR and Morocco -- are the only thing that can ensure a final settlement on the Western Sahara issue.

The two sides paid particular special attention to the Middle East crisis. In this connection, they renewed their absolute support for the struggle of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO -- the sole and legitimate representative for recovery of their firm rights including the right to establish their own independent and sovereign state.

They noted that any just and lasting settlement cannot be achieved by making separate agreements. They recalled that any genuine solution to the Middle East crisis must be general in nature, must include the participation of the PLO, must grant the basic rights of the Palestinian people and must effect the unconditional withdrawal of the Zionist forces of occupation from all Arab territory, including Jerusalem.

The two sides affirmed their firm commitment to the principles and aims of nonalignment and stated that this movement, more than ever before, is a necessary instrument in the struggle for the liberation and prosperity of nations, for settling international issues, for promoting international cooperation on the basis of equality, for safeguarding peace and stability in the world and for democratizing international relations and establishing a new international economic system.

Aware of the seriousness of the growing tension and readiness for confrontation which characterize international relations and which constitute a threat to world peace, the two sides noted the great importance of the coming summit conference of the nonaligned countries to be held in New Delhi in March 1983. The two sides expressed their high opinion of the talks they held and they affirmed the complete identity of their views. They expressed confidence that this new meeting of Algeria and Zimbabwe will contribute to a greater strengthening of relations between the two countries and consolidate the ties of fraternity, friendship and cooperation which (?bring the two peoples together).

Zimbabwean Prime Minister Mr Robert Mugabe expressed his profound thanks to President Chadli Bendjedid, the FLN party, the government, and the people of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria for the warm fraternal welcome and hospitality which he and the accompanying delegation were accorded during their stay.

At the end of his official visit Zimbabwean President Mr Robert Mugabe extended an invitation to President Chadli Bendjedid to pay an official visit to Zimbabwe. President Chadli Bendjedid accepted this invitation with pleasure and its date will be fixed at a later date by diplomatic means.

Mugabe Departs

LD221306 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Excerpts] Robert Mugabe, prime minister of the Republic of Zimbabwe, left Algeria this morning following a 4-day official visit to our country at the invitation of President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and secretary general of the party.

The prime ministers of Algeria and Zimbabwe, Abdelghani and Robert Mugabe held a round of political talks this morning.

LIBYA

REPORT ON AL-QADHDHAFI ROMANIA, BULGARIA VISITS

LD242252 Tripoli JANA in English 1823 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Text] Tripoli, Rabi' Thani 9, Jan 24, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY -- The leader of the revolution arrived back here midday today ending an official and friendly 7-day visit to Bulgaria and Romania.

He had talks with President Todor Zhivkov, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party and head of state of the People's Republic of Bulgaria and Nicolae Ceaucescu, the secretary general of the Communist Party and president of the Socialist Republic of Romania. The talks centered on bolstering the relations of friendship and cooperation between the Jamahiriyah people on one hand and the peoples of Bulgaria and Romania on the other.

The visit yielded positive results in the long-term cooperation and contributed in consolidating the front of struggle against imperialism and Zionism in defence of peace and progress.

Two friendship and cooperation treaties were concluded with Bulgaria and Romania.

Two long-term programmes for comprehensive cooperation have been also signed between the Jamahiriyah separately with Bulgaria and Romania as well as agreements on economic, trade, scientific and technical cooperation.

MOROCCO

COOPERATION MEMORANDUM SIGNED WITH SAUDI ARABIA

LD232248 Riyadh SPA in English 2055 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] Rabat, Jan 23, SPA -- Saudi Arabia and Morocco tonight signed a memorandum on the third session of Saudi-Moroccan joint committee.

The memorandum was signed by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and his Moroccan counterpart M'hamed Boucetta.

Following the signing ceremony, Mr Boucetta said the outcome of the session was a step forward in strengthening relations between Saudi Arabia and Morocco. He added that the committee decided to work out joint programmes to hold cultural festivals and book fairs.

The two countries also agreed to promote bilateral cooperation in the fields of monuments, fossils, and traditional industries, Mr Boucetta said.

He added that they also decided to develop cooperation in information domain, exchange programmes, and coordination between the national news agencies of the two countries.

SUDAN

SECURITY COUNCIL DISCUSSES RAILWAY ATTACK

JN241532 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1455 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Jan (SUNA) -- The National Security Council held its regular meeting under First Vice President Staff Major General 'Umar Muhammad at-Tayyib this morning.

During the meeting, the council reviewed the security situation in the southern region in light of the attack against the railway station of (Aryak) north of Uwayl in Bahr el-Ghazal Province which left several innocent citizens dead.

A responsible source at the council affirmed that the incident has absolutely nothing to do with the masses of the southern region. He also said that during the meeting the council was reassured about the measures adopted by the competent authorities in pursuing the criminals and perpetrators of the regrettable incident. He also affirmed that the People's Armed Forces were able, thank God, to restore normal life in the region and to ensure that security and reassurance prevailed among the citizens.

On 18 January, a group of armed bandits attacked the aforementioned railway station, leaving 13 traders dead and 3 others wounded.

PRC FRIENDSHIP DELEGATION WELCOMED 23 JAN

JN231456 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Jan (SUNA) -- Ar-Rashid at-Tahir Bakr, deputy first secretary of the SSU preparatory Central Committee, received his excellency the PRC ambassador in Khartoum here this morning. During the meeting, they reviewed the progress of the close relations between Sudan and the PRC as well as the scheduled visit of the CPC friendship delegation to Sudan at the end of this month as part of a tour during which it will also visit Iraq.

KENYA

KENYA, ETHIOPIA CONDEMN SOMALIA IN COMMUNIQUE

AB241140 Paris AFP in English 1127 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Text] Nairobi, Jan 24 (AFP) -- Ethiopia and Kenya today condemned Somalia's "expansionist activities" in the Horn of Africa and, in a warning clearly aimed at the United States, urged all countries to refrain from arming the regime in Mogadishu.

Their joint communique was issued here and in Addis Ababa after a week-long meeting of the Ethiopia-Kenya border administrators commission in the Kenyan port of Mombasa.

Soviet-backed Ethiopia and generally pro-Western Kenya have a long-standing common grievance against Somalia, which in the past has claimed both Ethiopia's southeastern Ogaden region and Kenya's northwest as part of "greater Somalia". Both regions are populated by ethnic Somali nomads.

Addis Ababa and Nairobi are linked in a defense pact in case of aggression by the regime in Mogadishu, but Kenya's participation in a call not to arm Somalia was seen as significant by political observers here. The most recent outbreak of hostilities in the Horn involved Ethiopian-backed forces striking into Somalia.

The latest fighting began in June, but Somalia and Ethiopia fought a war in 1977-78 over the Ogaden, when Somali regular forces and irredentist ethinic Somali guerrillas pushed deep into the Ogaden, only to be repelled with the help of massive Soviet and Cuban military aid to the Ethiopians.

In today's communique, carried here by the official KENYA NEWS AGENCY, Ethiopia and Kenya "unreservedly condemned the Somali regime for its expansionist activities and...reaffirmed their commitment to preserving their territorial integrity and sanctity of boundaries as enshrined in the OAU and U.N. Charters".

Both sides "strongly urged all countries to desist from arming the Somalia expansionist regime under any pretext whatsoever", according to the communique.

In July, the United States began airlifting military equipment to Somalia in connection with what a State Department spokesman called "the military emergency in Somalia caused by recent incursions by Ethiopian forces and other Ethiopian-supported forces", a reference to guerrillas of the Somalia Salvation Democratic Front (SSDF), opposed to the government of President Mohamed Siad Barre.

Diplomatic sources in Mogadishu say there are also some U.S. military advisers in Somalia.

In 1982, Washington and Mogadishu signed an agreement under which the United States would supply $40 million worth of defensive equipment such as radar in return for the use of Somali bases for the U.S. Rapid Deployment Forces. Kenya has a similar pact with the United States.

Despite the categorical wording of the communique, one of the Kenyan delegates contacted after its signing appeared to put a nuance on Nairobi's position.

He said Kenya did not object to Somalia's obtaining reasonable quantities of defensive materiel, but was opposed to the procurement of amounts or kinds that would enable it to fight outside its borders.

On Saturday, Kenyan Vice President Mwai Kibaki urged Somalia to abide by its decision at the 1981 OAU summit in Nairobi to respect international boundaries inherited from colonial governments.

But Mr Kibaki, speaking to the Ethiopian delegation to the border talks, said frequent changes of position regarding international boundaries by Mogadishu had made trust difficult.

The Ethiopian delegation to the talks was headed by Sidamo Province Chief Administrator Girma Hapte Gabriel, who said on returning to Addis Ababa that the meeting had been characterized by "mutual understanding" and had been "in general a success".

COMMUNIQUE ON KENYA-ETHIOPIAN BORDER MEETING

EA241206 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Text] Following the meeting of the Ethio-Kenya joint border administrators in Mombasa from 16 January to 23 January this year a joint communique has been issued touching on various areas of mutual cooperation.

The joint meeting noted with satisfaction the progress made since 1981 in the implementation of the decisions and agreements in all areas of mutual interest to the two sister states, adding that there was a desire by the two sides to strengthen further relations between the people of the two states.

Having reviewed the existing harmonious relations between Ethiopia and Kenya, the two sides expressed satisfaction at the rapid consolidation and expansion of the cooperation in such areas as trade, transport, communications, defense, and security. In this regard the meeting hailed the two heads of state for supporting the exchanges of visits and acknowledged that such visits were historic milestones which make significant steps in broadening cooperation between the two peoples.

The two sides agreed to fully implement the decisions and understanding hitherto reached by the 11th joint meeting of border administrators in various fields of mutual interest and concern and reemphasized the need to hold frequent meetings of local border elders and officials. The meeting further noted with satisfaction the cooperation in defense and security areas of the two countries, and agreed to intensify efforts in this respect.

Having reviewed the situation in the Horn of Africa, the meeting reiterated the commitment to create an atmosphere of understanding and confidence in the region with a view to establishing durable peace based on the respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, inviolability of state boundaries, and noninterference in the internal affairs of their states.

The next meeting will be held in (Hardar) in Ethiopia at a date to be decided upon later.

The communique, which was released in Kenya and Ethiopia simultaneously, was signed by the leaders of the delegations, Mr Benson Karia of Kenya and Girma Hapte of Ethiopia.

BENIN

KEREKOU RECEIVES GHANAIAN, NIGERIAN ENVOYS

AB242122 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Text] Our great comrade in arms President Kerekou this morning received in audience His Excellency Kadu Jyamfi, the Ghanaian charge d'affaires in Benin. After the audience, the Ghanaian diplomat answered questions put to him by Sylvestre Zouemahou:

[Begin recording] [Jyamfi in English fading into French translation] His Excellency President Kerekou invited me to talk about the present situation caused by the Nigerian expulsion order. That is all that we discussed, and what steps were taken to evacuate our citizens who are now in Cotonou, numbering over 10,000. We talked about the various steps to be taken to get them back to Ghana.

[Question] Your Excellency, what do you think of the situation created in Ghana by the repatriation of Ghanaian nationals?

[Answer] We did not expect such a serious situation. In addition, the closure of the borders in Ghana and Togo has created unprecedented problems, particularly as there is a large number of our nationals on the Beninese territory. But we have sent message to our government in Ghana which promised to dispatch boats to Begin to ensure the repatriation of Ghanaian nationals. We are very grateful to Benin for showing sympathy and effectiveness in tackling the problem. We wholeheartedly thank the government and people of Benin.

[Question] What do you think about the proposal made over the weekend by three African heads of state to convene an emergency summit of the ECOWAS in order to examine the situation?

[Answer] I believe the three heads of state took a good initiative by appealing to the current ECOWAS chairman because within this framework Nigeria could be induced to soften its position. If Nigeria could extend the deadline, this would help solve that problem.

[Question] How is the reception of those repatriated in Ghana itself? What measures are being taken for their resettlement in the Ghanaian society?

[Answer] The Ghanaian Government has set up a task force under the naval commander, Commodore Obimpe. The task force has already established facilities for those repatriated. They will first be brought to their regions of origin. Of course, they will have to be employed; plantations will be created within the framework of the reorganization of agriculture. [end recording]

After receiving the Ghanaian charge d'affaires, the head of state also received in audience His Excellency Yahya Abdulay, the Nigerian ambassador to Benin. After the audience, the Nigerian diplomat told the press that his visit to President Kerekou fell within the framework of the normal consultations between the two countries. He, however, said he was the bearer of a message for great Comrade Kerekou. Questioned on the decision of his country to expel illegal immigrants, the diplomat gave the following explanation:

[Begin recording] [Abdulay, in French] The Nigerian Government has never decided to expel aliens from Nigeria, however, it has decided to expel all aliens residing in Nigeria illegally.

[Question] Your Excellency, do you think the measure is in conformity with the principles of the ECOWAS?

[Answer] The Nigerian Government upholds the ECOWAS principles. The protocol providing for the free movement of persons among member countries remains in force. The protocol allows any national from a member country to stay for 90 days in any member country. Beyond that deadline, if the visitor wants to stay in the country, he must apply to the competent ministry in order to regularize his situation. Unfortunately, many visitors who availed themselves of the measure stayed well beyond the deadline of 90 days; they sometimes stay 2, 3, 4 or more years in Nigeria.

[Question] Your Excellency, what do you think of last weekend's proposal by several African heads of state to convene an emergency summit of the ECOWAS to examine the situation?

[Answer] I cannot comment on the decisions of heads of state. Only my head of state can express his opinion about such decisions. [end recording]

Our great comrade in arms lastly received in audience the Niger ambassador to the People's Republic of Benin. The talks centered essentially on Nigeria's expulsion order which affects a large number of Nigerois.

INTERIOR MINISTER ON SHELTERING FOREIGNERS

AB242147 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Text] The minister of the interior and public security has just issued a communique calling on the militants of the revolution to strictly abide by the law on sheltering aliens in the People's Republic of Benin. Consequently, the minister of the interior and public security recalls that any person who wishes to shelter a foreign national in Benin must first inform the competent political or administrative authorities -- mayor, district chief, commissioner, and commander of security agencies -- pending the registration of the alien concerned by the immigration department. This reminder is justified by the fact that following the expulsion order issued by Nigerian authorities to aliens in their country, there is a great number of foreigners in transit in our country. Some of them even try to settle down in order to continue their activities. For security's sake, the interior minister asks each one to strictly comply with the law on sheltering foreigners in the People's Republic of Benin.

GHANA

'THOUSANDS' RETURN AFTER EXPULSION FROM NIGERIA

AB241827 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Text] Thousands of Ghanaians today returned home following their expulsion by the Nigerian Government last week. On arrival at the Tema harbor they were conveyed to the trade fair site in Accra where they went through immigration and customs formalities.

They were picked up in Lome after spending 5 days there. Most of them were hungry and dirty. According to one of them, they left Nigeria last Tuesday through Benin to Togo where they joined one of the ships in Lome which was sent by the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] to pick them up. One of them, Mr Enoch Owusu, was sent to to hospital following gunshot wounds, in the left leg, he received in Nigeria. Some people were suffering from malaria and were really jaundiced. Among them were women and children, including pregnant women. After they had gone through immigration and cutoms checks most of them were allowed to leave for their hometowns.

The secretary for the interior, Mr Johnny Hansen, who was at the trade fair site assured the expelled Ghanaians that they will be assisted to get resettled. He expressed the hope that the Nigerian Government will ensure that Ghanaians still in Nigeria will not be maltreated in the spirit of good-neighborliness. Mr Johnny Hansen said the government's immediate plan is to ensure the smooth return of the expelled Ghanaians. He said the government will decide later on how best to mobilize them into the productive sectors of the economy.

MINISTRY HINTS AT NEGOTIATIONS WITH BENIN

AB242044 Accra Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Excerpts] Thousands of Ghanaians today returned home from Nigeria following the Nigerian Government's order to expel illegal immigrants at the end of this month. At the immigration section, police officers had to help most of the people to go through the laid down regulations because they said they were tired. Those who managed to bring some naira were made to exchange it at a rate of one naira to five cedis. Conspicuously absent were the usual stereo systems, television sets, electric fans, and other items normally brought in by Ghanaians. They told newsmen that they were forced to sell them at very low prices or to abandon them.

An official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs hinted that the Ghana Embassy in Benin has been instructed to negotiate with the Benin authorities to allow incoming Ghanaians facilities to board ships from there.

Meanwhile, a Ghana Airways technician, Mr M. Ayayi, who has just returned from Nigeria, said some officials of the Nigerian ports authority have been turning away Ghanaians at the Nigerian ports saying Ghanaian ships will not go to Lagos. Mr Ayayi said transport owners are demanding by naira from Ghanaians traveling from far beach in Lagos to Lome and collect as much as 250 naira for a truck.

Benin Foreign Minister Arrives

AB250815 Accra Domestic Service in English 0800 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] A delegation from Benin led by the foreign minister, Mr Tiamou Adjibade, last night delivered a message from President Kerekou to the chairman of the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC], Flight Lieutenant Rawlings, at the Castle. The contents of the message were not disclosed, but addressing newsmen later, Mr Adjibade said the message is in line with the cordial relations between the two countries. He said the people of Ghana and Benin share common aspirations for national development and want to coordinate efforts to counteract the activities of imperialist agents on the African Continent.

Mr Adjibade said that the decision to close Benin's borders is aimed at taking certain precautions and not to embarrass other African nationals affected by the Nigerian Government's quit order. He said the visit also intended to find ways of alleviating problems caused by the closure of Benin's borders to Ghanaians returning home. This is why the Ghanaian Consulate in Benin [as heard] to included on his delegation.

IVORY COAST

MOTIONS SUPPORT MOVING CAPITAL TO YAMOUSSOUKRO

AB212025 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 21 Jan 83

[Text] The transfer of the political and administrative capital of Ivory Coast to Yamoussoukro; the dossier has been opened. After the proposal of the mayor of Abidjan to the president of the republic, who has not yet replied, and the statement by the Executive Committee of the party which expresses support for this proposal, several motions of support are currently flowing into the palace of the president of the republic. Among these motions are those from several sections of the Democratic Party of the Ivory Coast-African Democratic Rally which are pleased with the mayor of Abidjan's suggestion.

NIGER

KOUNTCHE CARRIES OUT MINISTERIAL RESHUFFLE 24 JAN

AFP Report

AB241335 Paris AFP in French 1300 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Text] Niamey, 24 Jan (AFP) -- Niger head of state General Seyni Kountche today carried out a ministerial reshuffle with the most significant change being the appointment of Oumarou Mamane, as prime minister it was learned from official sources.

Oumarou Mamane has been minister of youth, sports and culture since August 1981.

Furthermore, three important figures of the previous government no longer occupy ministerial posts: Batallion Commander Moumouni Djermakoye Adamou (public health and social affairs), who is chairman of the national commission for the establishment of institutions of the "development corporation;" Garba Sidikou (information) and Mahamadou Halilou (justice).

The new government, in which there are five newcomers, is made up of 22 members as compared to 20 in the previous government formed on 14 June 1982.

New Cabinet List

AB241952 Niamey Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen, as you are aware the Niger Government was reshuffled this morning by a decree of the chairman of the Supreme Military Council and head of state, Major General Seyni Kountche. Here is the composition of the new government:

Article 1. The Government of the Republic of Niger is composed as follows:

Chairman of the Supreme Military Council, head of state, minister of national defense, minister of interior	Major General Seyni Kountche
Prime Minister	Oumarou Mamane
Minister of state for finance	Quarter Master Moussa Tondi
Minister of state for planning, commerce and transportation	Annou Mahamane
Minister of information	Captain Sidi Koutoubi
Minister of national education	Captain Mahamane Fousseini
Minister of posts and telecommunications	Brah Mamane
Minister of Hydrology and Environment	Yahaya Tounkara
Minister of foreign affairs and cooperation	Daouda Diallo
Minister of civil service and labor	Issoufou Mayaki
Minister of mines and industries	Oumar Diallo
Minister delegate for finance	Hamid Algabit
Minister of rural development	Dr Ari Toubo Ibrahim
Minister of higer education and research	Illa Maikassoua
Minister of public works and town planning	Moumouni Yacouba
Minister delegate for the interior	Amadou Fity Maiga
Minister of youth, sports and culture	Amadou Djibo
Minister of public health and social affairs	Dr Abdou Moudi
Minister of justice	Allele Elhadji Habibou
Secretary of state for national ecucation	Modieli Amadou
Secretary of state for planning	Al-Housseine Mouloul
Secretary of state for commerce and transportation	Almoustapha Soumeila

NIGERIA

PORTS AUTHORITY ASKS ILLEGAL ALIENS TO LEAVE

AB242135 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Text] The Nigerian Ports Authority, NPA, has appealed to illegal aliens now occupying the Apapa port to leave immediately as they are constituting a menace to operations there.

The Ghana high commission in Lagos has also been called upon to inform its nationals on the true position of things as regards a purported arrival of two ships to convey Ghanaians home. Addressing newsmen in Lagos today, the chairman of the authority, Chief Tayo Akpata, stated that as far as his organization was concerned there was no record to show that there were ships coming from Ghana. He alledged that over 100,000 aliens, mostly from Ghana, were now occupying the ports in Apapa.

Chief Akpata disclosed that some sheds in the port had been closed down as a result of the influx and that skeletal services were being operated at the container terminal. He told newsmen that the inspector general of police was cooperating fully with his authority to ensure that the situation did not get out of hand, pointing out that the assistance of other arms of government was being support. Chief Akpata stressed that about 25 ships would be needed to repatriate the aliens at the port, adding that it was not the responsibility of his authority to provide transport for them.

EMPLOYERS ASKED NOT TO GET PERMITS FOR IMMIGRANTS

AB241727 Lagos International Service in English 1630 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Text] Manufacturers in the country have been urged to refrain from securing work permits for illegal immigrants in their employment. The executive director of the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria, Mr Umar Eliazu, gave the plea today in Lagos. Dr Eliazu, who was reacting to a news report that some employers of labor were making attempts to secure work permits for illegal immigrants, stated that such action was inimical to the success of the Federal Goverment's order on illegal immigrants in the country. He therefore, appealed to the employers to cooperate with the authorities by terminating the appointments of those concerned.

SHAGARI LEAVES FOR INDIA, PAKISTAN, SAUDI ARABIA

AB241844 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Text] President Shehu Shagari today left Lagos on a 9-day visit to India, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia. He was seen off at Murtala Muhammad Airport by the vice president, Dr Alex Ekwueme, some ministers, and top government officials. President Shagari was accompanied on the visit by six ministers. They are Prof Ishaya Audu, external affairs; Alhaji Adjamu Ciroma, agriculture; Alhaji Maitama Yusuf, commerce; Dr Sylvester Ugoh, education; and Malam Garuba Wushishi, information.

While in India, President Shehu Shagari will hold bilateral talks with the leaders of India and Pakistan on mutual issues. [sentence as heard] He will also meet members of the Nigerian communities in the two countries.

PALME COMMISSION ADVOCATES UN RECOMMENDATIONS

AB221415 Lagos NAN in English 1400 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Text] Lagos, Jan 22 (NAN) -- The Swedish prime minister, Mr. Olof Palme, said in Lagos yesterday that another world war might break out if the UN rejected the proposals and recommendations of the independent commission on disarmament and security issues.

Mr. Palme, who is also the chairman of the commission, told a news conference that the report, titled common security, had proposed laid down procedures to deal with border conflicts in developing countries, and with nuclear arms race.

Mr. Palme said that the procedures would only succeed if member countries with veto powers at the UN cooperated.

The recommendations, among other things, said that the independence of Namibia should not in any way be linked with the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola.

It also said at the end of its two-day conference in Lagos that the building of a viable economic and social structure in Africa was a precondition for political stability in the world.

It appealed to the international community to assist African countries.

AFP Report

AB230835 Paris AFP in English 0741 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] Lagos, Jan 83 (AFP) -- The Palme Commission on Disarmament and Security ended a two-day meeting here this weekend, with the second day devoted particularly to security problems in Africa.

Tanzanian Foreign Minister Salim Ahmed Salim, a member of the Palme Commission, gave an address on the African angole. On Thursday, the president of the United Nations General Assembly, Imre Hollai of Hungary, addressed the meeting as its special guest.

Members of the independent commission examined with Mr Hollai the "positive" response given by the United Nations to the commission's last report, which proposed a strengthening of the United Nations.

On arms negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union, the commission concluded there was a need for major reduction of nuclear weapons and qualitative limitations leading to a lower and more stable "parity" level between the super powers.

The commission members expressed worry at the growth of European arsenals and recalled their proposal for central Europe to be made a non-nuclear zone.

On security in Africa, the commission, which had talks with Nigerian Vice President Alex Ekwueme and Nigeria Foreign Minister Ishaya Audu, recalled that its last report spoke of prevailing insecurity in the south of the continent because of the regime in Pretoria.

The commission called on all parties concerned to intensify their efforts to bring about a Namibian independence settlement in accordance with U.N. Security Council Resolution 435.

It said it believed insecurity in Southern Africa had its roots in apartheid, and expressed worry that despite embargos on arms supplied to South Africa, South Africa itself had become an arms exporter.

The commission called on all countries to hamper South Africa's exporting of arms and to continue bringing pressure to bear on Pretoria.

It also said that the serious economic situation of most African countries was an additional threat to security and stability on the continent.

The commission called for aid by the international community to African economies, saying that only economic recovery could restore stability, which was, it said, "in the interest of the international community".

The commission called on all countries to support the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC), which it described as the only example of "South-South" cooperation.

The next meeting of the Palme Commission, named after the Swedish prime minister, is to be held next September.

TOGO

CORRESPONDENT REPORTS FROM BORDER WITH BENIN

AB250840 Paris AFP in French 0729 GMT 29 Jan 83

[By Marc Pondaven]

[Text] Sanvee-Condji (Benin-Togo border), 25 Jan (AFP) -- Thousands of refugees of many nationalities have started arriving in Togo after the quit order given by Nigeria last Tuesday to over 2 million illegal immigrants.

To many of them, with the exception of the Togolese, Togo is only a stopover on their forced return to their countries, the AFP correspondent at the Sanvee-Condji border post between Benin and Togo noted.

It is recalled that, last Tuesday, Nigeria decided to expel over 2 million illegal immigrants residing in the country with a deadline of 15 days, with Ghanaians being the most affected by this measure. Benin and Togo are situated between Nigeria and Ghana.

These refugees, mostly young people, during their journey by car, truck, and passenger buses, only carry with them the bare necessities: enamel pans with some food for a few days, a badly closed suitcase or a dusty bundle of odd objects. The more persevering ones brought along their mattresses, a very costly and valuable article from which they do not want to be separated.

For the Togolese, the long exodus is almost over but besides them many Malians and Voltans are looking for transportation to return to their countries.

Truckowners are reaping their gold now. One sees big trucks transporting more than a hundred refugee who will make the journey on the Lome-Ouagadougou paved road in 2 days.

The Ghanaians are in a different situation. To get to their country they have to wait for the arrival of a ship at the Lome port to where they are transported in vehicles provided by the Ghana Embassy in Togo. In fact, for them Togo constitutes a blind alley because of the closure of Ghana's borders since 21 September and which were not opened for the occasion.

This forced halt for the Ghanaians has made the temporary refugees camp set up between Benin and Togo a no man's land where the Togolese Red Cross and international organizations try to give some comfort.

ANGOLA

ARRESTED PARTY ACTIVISTS RELEASED 21 JAN

AB241556 Paris AFP in French 1407 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Text] Luanda, 24 Jan (AFP) -- It was learned on Monday from well-informed sources that three activists of the ruling MPLA-Labor Party who were imprisoned in Luanda for splinter tactics and for insulting the head of state were freed on Friday evening.

The same source pointed out that the three released activists are "Nantagen" Lara, adopted son of Lucio Lara, member of the Political Bureau and secretary for party organization, Raul Araujo, head of the Education and Ideology Department, and Simao Paulo, cadre in the party's organization services.

Only Costa Andrade, biographer of President Neto and secretary of the union of journalists is still in the high security prison of Luanda, in spite of an appeal for clemency by his lawyer, Fernando Oliveira, to Angolan President Dos Santos.

It was learned from a reliable source that legal action against the three liberated activists will no longer be pursued and only sanctions within the party are likely to be imposed.

Simao Paulo and "Vantagen" Lara were arrested in the second half of December and Mr Araujo on 8 January 1983.

The freeing of Araujo, described by the Western press as a representative of the "radical left," illustrates a desire to reduce tension within the party, observers in Luanda note.

BOTSWANA

PETER MMUSI APPOINTED NEW VICE PRESIDENT

MB211902 Johannesburg Domestic Service in Afrikaans 1830 GMT 21 Jan 83

[Text] A new vice president has been appointed in Botswana, in place of Mr Lenyeletse Seretse who died earlier this month. He is the country's minister of finance and development planning, Mr Peter Mmusi.

MOZAMBIQUE

3-YEAR TRADE AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH USSR

MB211340 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1100 GMT 21 Jan 83

[Text] Mozambique and the Soviet Union yesterday signed an agreement intended to double the value of bilateral trade by 1985.

The Soviet Union is to supply Mozambique with machinery, raw materials, chemical products, animal feed, and consumer goods. Mozambican exports to the Soviet Union will include sisal, cashew nuts, and prawns. The terms of the agreement are similar to those of previous trade accords between the two socialist states, but this is the first time that trade has been planned for a period of 3 years.

The agreement was signed in Maputo by the governor of the Bank of Mozambique, Prakash Ratilal, and the first deputy minister for Soviet Foreign Trade, G.K. Zhuravlev.

During his visit to Mozambique, Mr Zhuravlev had talks with Planning Minister Mario Machungo, Agriculture Minister Sergio Vieira, Industry Minister Antonio Branco, and the Acting Governor of Gaza Province Joaquim Chissano.

SOUTH AFRICA

REPORTAGE ON RESUMPTION OF TALKS WITH ANGOLA

Johannesburg Cites THE STAR

LD211544 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 21 Jan 83

[Text] The South African and Angolan Governments are believed to be negotiating a comprehensive agreement for nonaggression and economic cooperation to become effective only if some 25,000 Cubans are withdrawn from Angola. The South African newspaper, THE STAR, says that negotiations, which began months before the talks on the Cape Verde Islands last month, are to be resumed at another meeting between South African and Angolan officials, probably before the end of the month.

Quoting well-placed sources, THE STAR said the Cape Verde talks were preceded by at least two secret meetings at a lower diplomatic level in Paris last year.

THE STAR Report

MB220844 Johannesburg THE STAR in English 21 Jan 83 p 1

[By Peter Honey, THE STAR's Africa news service]

[Text] Windhoek -- The South African and Angolan Governments are believed to be negotiating a comprehensive agreement for non-aggression and economic co-operation, which would become effective only if Cuba withdrew its 25,000 troops from Angola.

The negotiations -- which began months before the Cape Verde Island talks last month -- are to be resumed at another meeting between South African and Angolan officials, probably before the end of the month.

South Africa's ministers of foreign affairs and of defence held talks with the Angolan ministers of the interior and of transport on Sal Island in early December.

Well-placed sources say the Sal talks were preceded by at least two secret meetings, at a lower diplomatic level, in Paris last year.

One of South Africa's interests is known to be the completion and efficient management of the Ruacana hydro-electric scheme which, at present, is entirely dependent on the seasonal rise and fall of the Cunene River.

This month, as Angola's rainy season swells the river, South Africa is receiving hydro-electric power from Ruacana for the first time.

Next month Ruacana is expected to be sending more than 200 megawatts of electricity to the south.

At night and on Sundays most of this power is exported, at a nominal cost, to South Africa.

The link to South Africa is the recently completed power line which joins the South West African Water and Electricity Corporation (SWAWEC) to ESCOM's northern cape grid at Aggeneis.

Angola is understood to have insisted that South Africa should cease its military operations in southern Angola in exchange.

It is not known how far the negotiations have progressed but, after nearly eight years of civil war in the south and east -- where UNITA guerrillas conduct sabotage and harassing raids against Cuban and MPLA troops and security forces raid SWAPO bases with impunity -- the Angolan Government is anxious to begin economic and social reconstruction.

One project is the resumption of iron mining at Cassinga -- a SWAPO base area well within reach of the South African military salient.

The Cassinga mine is believed to depend on hydro-electric power from another station on the Cunene, near Matala. Matala is not operating to capacity because the large Gove dam up-stream is not being operated efficiently.

Professional sources say it would cost about R12 million to complete the Calueque dam, 65 km upstream of Ruacana, which was abandoned when only 70 percent complete in 1975.

If Calueque and Gove were then operated in harmony, Ruacana would receive a constant water flow, and provide relatively cheap electricity to Namibia and South Africa for most of the year.

2-Month Hostilities Suspension

LD250016 Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguese 0000 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] Quoting diplomatic sources in Lisbon, the news agency NOTICIAS DE PORTUGAL reports that Cuban troops and SWAPO guerrillas in Angola are to withdraw to a strip north of Mocamedes in accordance with the provisions of an agreement between the Luanda and Pretoria governments.

The agreement further stipulates that South Africa will cease supporting the armed groups operating in southern Angola with Pretoria's backing.

South Africa has given assurances that it will stop its arms supplies to the said groups.

The same sources added that Luanda and Pretoria have agreed to suspend hostilities for 2 months from 1 February.

Arrival of U.S. Delegation

LD250230 Johannesburg International Service in English 0220 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] A news agency report from Luanda quotes diplomatic sources in the Angolan capital as saying that there are signs that difficulties over independence for South-West Africa-Namibia are being surmounted. The signs mentioned by the diplomats are the arrival in Luanda today of a U.S. delegation, the reported resumption of talks between Angola and South Africa and the visit next week to southern Africa of the UN secretary general.

According to the diplomats, the (?resumed) talks between South African and Angolan representatives have already made it possible for some problems to be solved.

Official Reaction

MB250938 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0900 GMT 25 Jan 83

[TExt] The Portuguese news agency NOTICIAS DE PORTUGAL reports from Lisbon that South Africa and Angola have agreed to a temporary cease-fire along the South-West African border.

The agency, quoting diplomatic sources, said that South Africa and Angola had agreed to cease hostilities for a period of 2 months beginning 1 February in a move apparently linked to a settlement in South-West Africa and the withdrawal of Cuban forces from Angola.

In Cape Town the minister of foreign affairs and information, Mr Pik Botha, has said that negotiations are at a sensitive level, and at this stage discussions in the press will only jeopardize their outcome. Approached for comment on the Lisbon reports, he said diplomatic negotiations were best undertaken between the two countries in private.

Botha on Negotiations

AB251105 Paris AFP in English 1052 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] Cape Town, South Africa, Jan. 25 (AFP) -- Negotiations between South Africa and Angola have resumed on a ceasefire in Namibia, South African Foreign Minister Roelof 'Pik" Botha said today.

The South African Press Agency quoted him as warning that "negotiations are at a sensitive level, and at this stage discussions in the press will only jeopardise the outcome".

FOREIGN MINISTER VIEWS RELATIONS WITH U.S.

LD241955 Johannesburg International Service in English 1115 GMT 24 Jan 83

[From the "Interaction" program]

[Text] The positive encouragement towards constructive political developments in South Africa by the United States Government over the past 2 years has been appreciated by the South African Government and has resulted in a determined and constructive forward movement, particularly on the political front. In today's edition of Interaction we take a look at current relations between the United States and South Africa. First, the South African foreign minister, Mr R.F. Botha:

[Begin Botha recording] Our relations are good. I would characterize the relations by saying that there is a growing readiness to appreciate each other's problems. There is a growing understanding of the obstacles which both governments experience as far as bringing about changes which the Americans, on the one hand, I believe would wish us to effect, but which, on the other hand, we have to be careful about. Because, after all, the United States Government does not bear the responsibility for the administration and the stability of South Africa, it is the South African Government who has that task. The present American Administration has not indulged in acrimonious exchanges with the South African Government, (?but) that does not mean that maintaining good relations and endeavouring to improve those relations is not an extremely difficult task. Because sometimes friends can in a certain sense be more criticial, or their criticism in the privacy of discussion can be more difficult to reply to -- to respond to -- than is the case when you have an outright opponent accusing you of all sorts of improper behaviour and condemning your policies outright. But, I want to say this, the prime minister and myself told South Africa the moment President Reagan was elected that he cannot resolve our problems; South Africans must resolve those problems. And the most important aspect of the relations between us and the United States at present is that the United States Government is saying to us and conceding that they cannot resolve our problems. It is up to us to do so.

And I think if we can move steadily ahead, not because the American Government desires us to do so, but because we ourselves feel that we must move along and improve relations ourselves inside our country, and must evolve a constitutional system in terms of which we can accommodate the aspirations of the whites, the coloured people, the Asians, and our various African neighbours — Black African neighbours. Because it is the objective of the South African Government to move along this road. I believe there will be appreciation on the part of the present American Government for the very sensitive, delicate nature of the South African Government's viewpoints and policies. (?And) the one aspect that looms a bit heavy -- heavily on the horizon -- is South West Africa. That is a severe question. I would not like to make any predictions as to what the outcome of this problem might be or the affect that it might have on our relations with the United States of America.

We can only deliver the goods as far as South West Africa is concerned if we -- South Africa -- in the first instance believe that it is in our interest. I cannot deliver goods for another government or for another country, (?and) that is very important. If we are to deliver goods, they are to be delivered in the interest of South Africa. [end recording]

JOHANNESBURG MIGRANT RULES APPARENTLY TIGHTENED

MB211039 Johannesburg THE STAR in English 20 Jan 83 p 1

[By Tony Davis and Anthony Duigan]

[Excerpts] A storm has arisen over two controversial clauses in employment contracts for migrant workers in Johannesburg and the West Rand which appear to tighten influx control.

Trade unions and legal experts have condemned the clauses which state a contract worker will lose his job and be endorsed out if he is joined by members of his family from the rural areas.

The unpublicised clauses are contained in the call-in card issued by the West Rand Administration Board (WRAB), which must be completed by employers and contract workers and approved by local and rural labour officers.

WRAB's manpower director, Mr A.E. Steenhuisen, said the clauses were not new and it had been a long-standing rule that any migrant worker risked losing his job if he brought his family into an urban area.

These clauses are not included in the call-in cards issued by other administration boards.

This endorsing-out measure is not included in the black labour regulations of 1965 and 1968 which detail the call-in card system.

A spokesman for the department of co-operation and development in Pretoria said he knew of no new regulations tightening controls on migrant workers. He was not prepared to comment on WRAB's call-in card.

Mr Steenhuisen said the board's call-in card had been revised to "make it easier" but that no clauses had been added to it.